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Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Thursday, February 4, 2010

INSIDE TODAY
WORLD NEWS

CHILD TRAFFIC



Sorianta Leantus, 27, holds her two-year-old daughter Magladeine, as she poses for a photo in the mountain village of Callebas, Haiti, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010. Leantus, who is pregnant with her third child, gave up her first child, a six-year-old daughter, to the American missionaries who were later arrested by Haitian authorities on child trafficking charges.

Read more on Page A8

SPORTS NEWS

ON THE WEDGE



Defending tournament champion Phil Mickelson speaks during a news conference on the Pro-Am day of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010.

Read more on Page A14



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In this Aug. 17, 2008 file photo, 2009 Matrix compact wagons sit at a Toyota dealership in the south Denver suburb of Littleton, Colo. Toyota on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010 announced that it is instructing Toyota dealers to temporarily suspend sales of eight models involved in the recall announced on Jan. 21.

Associated Press

Toyota probe deepens amid confusion over risk

KEN THOMAS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood told Toyota owners Wednesday they should stop driving their vehicles, then quickly took back his words, adding to confusion over the safety of millions of recalled cars. Toyota, for its part, tried to reassure drivers that sticky gas pedals have been rare — and the cars can be stopped in any event by firmly stepping on the brakes.

The final word from LaHood: "What I meant to say or what I thought I said was, if you own one of these cars or if you're in doubt, take it to the dealer and they're going to fix it."

The back-and-forth played out as word surfaced that Toyota Motor Corp. also has been the subject of more than 100 complaints in

the U.S. and Japan about brake problems with the popular Prius gas-electric hybrid, which is not part of the recall. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has received about 100 complaints, two of them involving crashes that resulted in injuries. In addition, Japan's transport ministry said it had received 14 complaints. Rep. Bart Stupak, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce investigative subcommittee, said he planned to ask Toyota about the complaints related to the Prius.

Further clouding the picture for consumers: the notion that problems could extend beyond Toyota vehicles. Federal officials have widened their investigation of malfunctioning gas pedals to see if the same problem exists in cars made by other auto companies.

Continued on next Page



In this undated file photo originally released by the FBI, Aafia Siddiqui is shown. A New York jury found Siddiqui guilty on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010 of two counts of attempted murder for trying to kill Americans while she was detained in Afghanistan.

Associated Press

Scientist convicted of trying to kill Americans

TOM HAYS,
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A U.S.-trained Pakistani scientist was convicted Wednesday of charges that she tried to kill Americans while detained in Afghanistan in 2008, shouting with a raised arm as jurors left the courtroom: "This is a verdict coming from Israel, not America."

A jury deliberated three days in federal court in Manhattan before finding Aafia Siddiqui guilty in the third week of her attempted murder trial, which she often interrupted with rambling courtroom outbursts.

Continued on Page 5



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Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 2010, before the House Appropriations subcommittee on Transportation. LaHood now says he misspoke when telling owners of recalled Toyotas to stop driving them. Instead, LaHood says take the vehicles to dealerships to get them repaired.

TOYOTA PROBE

Continued from Front Page

The traffic safety agency said it had sent a letter to CTS, the Indiana company that made the pedals for Toyota, to find out more about the pedals it has manufactured for other auto companies, including Honda, Nissan and a small

Associated Press

number of Fords in China. CTS has been adamant that the issues are limited to Toyota alone. The Toyota recall in the U.S. covers 2.3 million vehicles and involves 2009-10 RAV4 crossovers, 2009-10 Corollas, 2009-10 Matrix hatchbacks, 2005-10 Avalons, 2007-10

Camrys, 2010 Highlander crossovers, 2007-10 Tundra pickups and 2008-10 Sequoia SUVs. The recalls also extend to Europe and China, covering nearly 4.5 million vehicles overall.

Toyota said the sticking gas pedal situation is unusual and "generally does not occur suddenly. In the rare instances where it does occur, the vehicle can be controlled with firm and steady application of the brakes."

LaHood said the government is considering civil penalties against the carmaker but that it appeared "Toyota is making an all-out effort to do all that they can to fix these cars."

Rep. Darrell Issa, a California Republican, said plenty of questions remain. "Obviously, there are concerns regarding the consistency of information that is entering the public domain," he said. □

AG decided to charge terror suspect

PETE YOST

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Eric Holder said Wednesday he made the decision to charge the Nigerian terror suspect in civilian court rather than the military system, with no objection from all the other relevant departments of the U.S. government.

In a letter to Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, the attorney general wrote that the FBI told its partners in the intelligence community on Christmas Day and again the next day that Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab would be charged criminally.

Holder's letter was the latest volley in a vigorous counterattack by the Obama administration to Republican charges that the arrest and FBI interrogation of the Detroit suspect was a mistake that cost a chance to learn key information. The letter followed less than 24 hours after senior administration officials disclosed that the suspect had resumed talking to U.S. interrogators last week after breaking off his discussions the day of his arrest.

Abdulmutallab has discussed his contacts in Yemen and provided intelligence in multiple terrorism investigations, officials say.

Holder said that the possibility of detaining Abdulmutallab in the U.S. military system under the law of war was explicitly discussed in the days following the arrest, including at a Jan. 5 meeting that included President Barack Obama and senior members of the national security team. □



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U.S. border fence plagued by glitches, long delays



This undated picture provided by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection shows a prototype of a tower for a virtual fence along the U.S.-Mexico border at a test facility in Playas, N.M. An ambitious, \$6.7 billion government project to secure nearly the entire Mexican border with a "virtual fence" of cameras, ground sensors and radar is in jeopardy after a string of technical glitches and delays.

JACQUES BILLEAUD
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — An ambitious, \$6.7 billion government project to secure nearly the entire Mexican border with a "virtual fence" of cameras, ground sensors and radar is in jeopardy after a string of technical glitches and delays.

Having spent \$672 million so far with little to show for it, Washington has ordered a reassessment of the whole idea. The outlook became gloomier this week when President Barack Obama proposed cutting \$189 million from the venture.

Ultimately, the project could be scaled back dramatically, with the government installing virtual fences along a few segments of the nation's 2,000-mile (3,218-kilometer) southern boundary but dropping plans for any further expansion, officials said.

"The worst that happens is that we have a system which gives us some value but we

conclude that it's not worth buying any more of it," said Mark Borkowski, the government's director of the project at U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The first permanent segment of virtual fence — a 23-mile (37-kilometer) stretch near Sasabe, Arizona — was supposed to be turned over to the Border Patrol by the main contractor, Boeing Co., for testing in January, but the handover has been delayed by problems involving the video recording equipment.

The Bush administration launched the project in 2005 to help secure the border against illegal immigrants, drug smugglers and other intruders. It was conceived as another layer of protection, in addition to thousands of Border Patrol agents and 650 miles (1,050 kilometers) of real fences.

The system was supposed to let a small number of dispatchers watch the border on a computer monitor, zoom in with cameras to see people

crossing, and decide whether to send Border Patrol agents to the scene. Although there are sensors, cameras and radar at many points along the border, they are not connected to cover large expanses.

Originally, the virtual fence was supposed to be completed by 2011; that date has slipped to 2014, largely because of technical problems.

Among other things, the radar system had trouble distinguishing between vegetation and people when it was windy. Also, the satellite communication system took too long to relay information in the field to a command center. By the time an operator moved a camera to take a closer look at a spot, whatever had raised suspicion was gone.

The Homeland Security Department and Boeing said the early problems were fixed, but other glitches keep popping up. The latest: a software bug that causes video recording devices to lock on to the wrong cameras,

hindering agents trying to collect evidence against illegal border-crossers.

The government is trying to negotiate a deal with Boeing to let the Border Patrol begin using the first permanent stretch of virtual fence at night while the contractor is still working on it. Otherwise, the Border Patrol might have to wait until late summer or early fall to take control of the section.

In ordering a reassessment of the project on Jan. 8, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said that the delays were unacceptable and

that the government needs to consider more efficient and economical options. She did not elaborate.

"Americans need border security now — not 10 years down the road," Napolitano said.

As for the possibility of the project being scaled back by government officials, Tim Peters, a Boeing vice president, said: "They really need to come up with the right calculus, and we'll support that answer and look to be their preferred contractor to build whatever portion of what that calculus is." □

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Obama prescribes election plan to Democrats: Lead



President Barack Obama listens to questions at the Senate Democratic Policy Committee Issues Conference, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010, at the Newseum in Washington. (Associated Press)

BEN FELLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a blunt election prescription for his own skittish party, President Barack Obama on Wednesday implored Democratic leaders to swing

big, be honest with an angry American public and expose Republican obstructionism all they can.

"We still have to lead," Obama told Democratic senators in a pep talk that unfolded on live TV.

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That line alone revealed how much the political dynamic has changed in just two weeks, as Senate Democrats watched their voting numbers slip from 60 to 59 in a special Massachusetts election that sent shudders through the party. That one vote cost them the muscle to overcome Republican stalling tactics, forcing the Democratic president to adapt in hopes of salvaging this year and his agenda.

His advice: Get results, and this November's elections will work out fine.

The Democrats' loss of the seat in Massachusetts, held for decades by the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, dealt a severe blow to Obama and the party, forcing them to scale back some of their legislative objectives, such as remaking the U.S. health care system. Democrats now want to focus on getting jobs for Americans and other economic issues that resonate with voters in an attempt to avoid big losses and possibly control of Congress in November elections.

Let policy be our politics, Obama told the senators, and make sure everyone knows about petty acts by the opposition.

Obama's mission is to stiffen the resolve of his own party as he pursues an agenda that is consistent — creating jobs,

overhauling health insurance, regulating Wall Street — yet is also cast in more personal, real-life terms.

So Obama went into detail in offering tactical guidance to a room full of senators with decades of election experience, including a handful who face difficult campaigns this year and got most of the camera time with Obama.

The president said lawmakers should do more business in the public eye; tell voters honestly that some problems will take a long time to solve; stop listening to cable

TV shows that obsess about Washington's politics; make a case for health care reform without getting bogged down by insider minutia; and call out Republicans when gamesmanship holds up votes.

Obama said he is still confident the American people will re-elect leaders who do the right thing and explain it well. There was no mention of the many other factors, rightly or not, that drive elections, from personalities and negative ads to local issues to a sense of national drift.

"I hope we don't lose sight of why we're here," Obama said. "We've got to finish the job on health care. We've got to finish the job on financial regulatory reform. We've got to finish the job, even though it's hard."

The election season could be hard, too. The party in power traditionally sustains losses, and the public is in a sour mood.

Obama's new bipartisanship — cooperative offers laced with criticism — was on display. When he recounted the expensive steps Democrats took to halt a deeper recession, he said, "We led." The suggestion was that Republicans did not.

The president said he meant it when he told House Republicans that he wants to work them. Then he sharply added: "We'll call them out when they say they want to work with us, and we extend a hand and get a fist in return." Obama called on senators to remember the ideals that propelled them to run for office in the first place.

"If anybody is searching for a lesson from Massachusetts, I promise you the answer is not to do nothing," Obama said. He later told senators to avoid their instinct in tough times to "tread lightly, keep your head down, and to play it safe."

The message was also about Obama himself. His comments had echoes of his own presidential campaign as he strives, in a series of recent appearances, to recharge his agenda and shore up his party in the face of potential election losses this year. □

Republican senator to be sworn in Thursday

BOSTON (AP) — Democrats will lose their absolute control of the Senate Thursday as a Republican is to be sworn in to a seat long held by the late Edward Kennedy.

Democrats will still have a majority in the Senate when Scott Brown takes his seat, but they will no longer have a large enough margin of power to bypass Republican tactics to stall voting, known as filibusters.

That is likely to complicate the Democrats' efforts to push through health care reform and other key items on President Barack Obama's agenda.

Brown had earlier said he didn't want to be sworn in before Feb. 11, to give himself time he said he needed to hire a staff and prepare for his new responsibilities. However, some fellow conservatives have criticized him for the delay.

Jim Manley, a spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, said he expected a ceremony at 5 p.m. Thursday.

"If that's what he wants to do, I expect he'll

be sworn in as early as (Thursday) afternoon," Manley said.

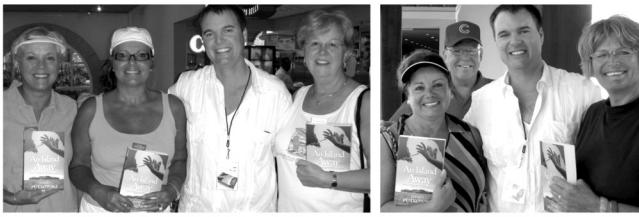
The conservative state senator won the seat Kennedy held for more than a half-century in a special election Jan. 19. The upset over Democrat Martha Coakley in the largely Democratic state of Massachusetts was widely viewed as reflecting a wave of voter dissatisfaction over Obama's agenda and the country's dismal economic condition.

However, Brown came under criticism from conservative radio hosts and newspaper columnists about what one dubbed a "three-week victory lap" since he won the special election to replace Kennedy, who died last year of brain cancer.

Amid the criticism, Brown's counsel Daniel Winslow demanded in a letter to the governor of Massachusetts that the state executive certify the election results Thursday morning so that Brown's certification could be forwarded to the Senate in time for him to be sworn in that afternoon. □



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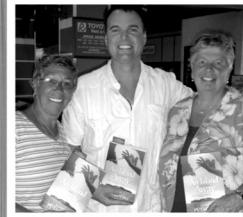
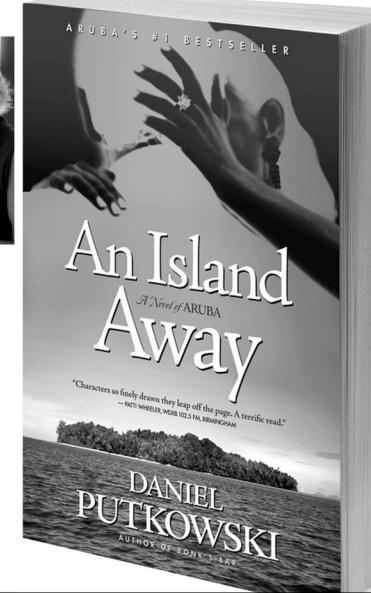
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SCIENTIST CONVICTED

Continued from Front Page

After declaring the verdict came from Israel, she turned toward spectators in the packed courtroom and said: "Your anger should be directed where it belongs. I can testify to this and I have proof." Siddiqui, 37, was convicted of two counts of attempted murder, though the crime was not found by the jury to be premeditated. She was also convicted of armed assault, using and carrying a firearm, and assault of U.S. officers and employees.

Before her arrest, U.S. authorities had called Siddiqui an al-Qaida sympathizer. She was never charged with

terrorism, but prosecutors called her a grave threat who was carrying bomb-making instructions and a list of New York City landmarks including the Statue of Liberty when she was captured.

The defendant — a spindly neuroscience specialist who trained at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Brandeis University — "is no shrinking violet," Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher La Vigne said in closing arguments.

"She does what she wants when she wants it," he said. "These charges are no joke. People almost died."

Testifying in her own defense, Siddiqui claimed she had been

tortured and held in a "secret prison" before her detention. Charges that she attacked U.S. personnel who wanted to interrogate her were "crazy," she said. "It's just ridiculous." In court, Siddiqui veiled her head and face with a white scarf and often sat slumped in her chair. She openly sparred with the judge and her own lawyers, insisted she could single-handedly bring peace to the Middle East and lashed out at witnesses in tirades that got her kicked out of the courtroom.

"I was never planning a bombing! You're lying!" she yelled while an Army captain testified.

In her closing argument,



In this July 17, 2008 file photo, accused al-Qaida associate Aafia Siddiqui is seen in the custody of Counter Terrorism Department of Ghazni province in Ghazni City, Afghanistan. The U.S.-trained Pakistani scientist has been convicted by a jury on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010 of charges she tried to kill Americans while she was detained in Afghanistan.

Associated Press

defense attorney Linda Moreno accused the prosecutors of trying to play on the jury's fears.

"They want to scare you into convicting Aafia Siddiqui," she said. "The defense trusts that you're much smarter than that."

During the two-week trial, FBI agents and U.S. soldiers testified that when they went to interrogate Siddiqui at an Afghan police station, she snatched up an unattended assault rifle and shot at them while yelling, "Death to Americans." She was wounded by return fire but recovered and was brought to the United States to face charges attempted murder, assault and gun charges.

A chief warrant officer, who testified in uniform but did not give his name, told jurors he had set down his M4 rifle after being told Siddiqui had been restrained. He testified he was shocked when she suddenly appeared from behind a curtain wielding his M4 rifle

and yelling, "Allah akbar," Arabic for "God is great."

"It was pretty amazing she got that thing up and squared off," he said. "She was looking at me and aiming dead at me."

Hearing the rifle go off, the officer said he followed his military training and pulled his pistol. Siddiqui was wrestling with an interpreter when he shot her in the stomach.

"I operated within the rules of engagement to eliminate the threat," he said.

The defense told jurors there was no ballistic, fingerprint or other physical evidence proving the weapon was "touched by Dr. Siddiqui, let alone fired by her."

Siddiqui testified she was shot shortly after she poked her head around a curtain to see if there was a way she might slip out of the room where she was being held. She said she was desperate to escape because she feared being returned to a secret prison.

"I wanted to get out. ... I was afraid," she said. □



Elyse Marsyl Colon, 22, right, is escorted Tuesday night Feb. 2, 2010 out of the San Antonio Police Department headquarters. Colon was being held Wednesday on two counts of capital murder of a child in the deaths of her sons, 3-year-old Jose Luis Garcia and 1-year-old Guillermo Garcia. Her bond was set at \$2 million.

Associated Press

Chief William McManus said. "It was unspeakably sad."

Colon was waiting outside her home when officers arrived Tuesday evening and put her hands behind her back as they approached, police said.

When an officer asked "What happened?", Colon allegedly responded with, "I killed my babies." An officer kicked in the locked front door of the home and found the boys lying on a bed, according to police. □

By PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — A state official says a child welfare caseworker visited a woman's San Antonio home the day before police say she killed her two young sons.

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services said Wednesday that a caseworker made a routine visit Monday to the home of Elyse Marsyl Colon. San Antonio police say Colon fatally stabbed her children, ages 1 and 3, the next day. Agency spokeswoman Mary Walker says the caseworker saw nothing to indicate that Colon might try to kill her children.

The agency investigated the family on several occasions since 2006. Colon is being held on two counts of capital murder with bond set at \$2 million.

"Words can't describe the scene," San Antonio police



Human Rights Watch's Director for the Americas Jose Miguel Vivanco holds up the organization's report on Colombia titled "The New Face of Colombia Violence" during a press conference in Bogota, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010.

VIVIAN SEQUERA

Associated Press Writer

BOGOTA (AP) — New militias have arisen to replace Colombia's notorious right-wing paramilitary groups and they are committing the same sorts of violence as their predecessors, a prominent international rights organization said Wednesday. More than 31,000 fighters have

been demobilized from the paramilitary coalition known as the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, or AUC, in recent years, but dozens of newly emerged successor groups have engaged in activities ranging from mass murder to extortion, according to New York-based Human Rights Watch.

The paramilitaries were

Associated Press

organized by rural landowners seeking protection from leftist rebels, but they soon became a powerful, lawless drug-dealing force in much of the country. The U.S. government has declared the AUC a terrorist organization.

Government pressure led the paramilitaries to disband between 2003 and 2006.

"According to the government, the (demobilization) process was successful. However, shortly after the demobilization process, new successor groups emerged in the entire country that continued the criminal activities," said Jose Miguel Vivanco, Americas director for Human Rights Watch.

The 113-page report said the new militias have attacked rights activists, unionists and community leaders who fail to

follow their instructions. Colombia's Defense Minister Gabriel Silva said the report was unfair.

"Human Rights Watch has an ideological position that does not accept our objective information; it has misguided and slanted opinions," Silva said.

Silva canceled a scheduled meeting with Vivanco and said he would release a detailed rebuttal later.

Government officials have acknowledged that the rise of new militias is a problem and President Alvaro Uribe has repeatedly vowed to crack down on the illegal armed groups.

Wednesday's report, based on nearly two years of research, also suggested that some government officials and state

security forces frequently ignore militia violence. Vivanco urged the government to take action to neutralize the militias.

The Colombian National Police say there are about 4,000 militiamen in the new groups in 24 of Colombia's 32 provinces.

But local rights groups believe as many as 10,000 militiamen could belong to the groups, which are trying to expand their areas of operation despite some recent arrests.

Human Rights Watch said the emergence of the groups was predictable, largely due to the government's failure to dismantle the paramilitary coalition's criminal networks when it demobilized its fighters. □

Human Rights group urges Colombia to control militias

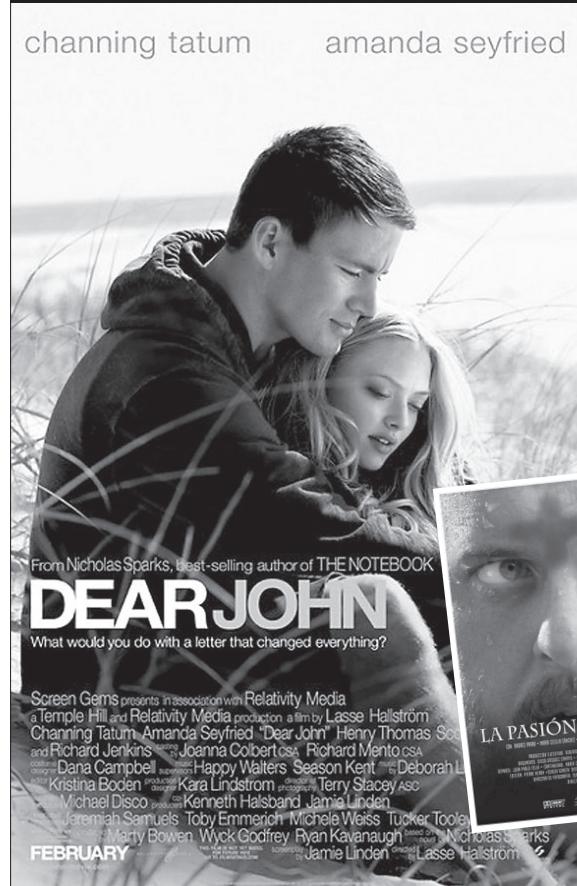


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AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

<input type="checkbox"/> R	EDGE OF DARKNESS	daily: 6:00	8:30	NEW
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PG-13 LA PASIÓN DE GABRIEL

	daily: 7:00	9:00	NEW
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R UP IN THE AIR

	daily: 6:00	8:45	
	late show: 11:15		

PG ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"

	daily: 4:00	2:00	
	matinee: 12:00		

PG TOOTH FAIRY

	daily: 4:15	6:30	9:00
	matinee: 1:45		late show: 11:30

PG LEAP YEAR

	daily: 4:45	2:30	
	matinee: 12:15		

R LEGION

	daily: 4:15	6:30	8:45
	matinee: 1:45		late show: 11:15

PG-13 AVATAR 3D

	daily: 4:30	7:45	
	matinee: 1:15		late show: 11:00



AT PASEO HERENCIA

<input type="checkbox"/> PG-13	DEAR JOHN	daily: 6:00	8:30	NEW
		matinee: 1:00	3:30	late show: 11:00

PG-13 INVICTUS

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	matinee: 12:00	3:00	late show: 11:30

PG ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"

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	matinee: 12:00		

G THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG

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	matinee: 12:15		

PG-13 IT'S COMPLICATED

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R THE BOOK OF ELI

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PG-13 AVATAR 3D

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	matinee: 1:30		late show: 11:15



R NINE

	daily: 7:00	9:30	
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Netanyahu: Peace talks could resume in weeks

STEVEN GUTKIN

Associated Press Writer

HERZLIYA, Israel (AP)

— Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday he had reason to believe that long-stalled peace talks with the Palestinians could resume in a matter of weeks. Netanyahu did not give details, but an official indicated Israel would take a step to make it possible for the Palestinians to agree to talks. He did not elaborate and spoke on condition of anonymity because no offer has been made.

Palestinians have been insisting that Israel halt all construction in Jewish West Bank settlements before peace talks are restarted. They rejected a partial 10-month freeze Netanyahu imposed in

late November as insufficient, because it does not include east Jerusalem, where Palestinians hope to establish a capital. Netanyahu was speaking at an annual security conference sponsored by the Herzliya Interdisciplinary Center, where Israeli leaders have made significant policy statements in past years.

Netanyahu told the conference: "I have reason to hope realistically that in the coming weeks we will restart peace talks with the Palestinians without preconditions."

Netanyahu praised Palestinian efforts to improve their economy and build institutions, but he appealed to them to accept a resumption of efforts toward a peace accord. "If this willingness indeed exists, we will see resumption of the

process in the coming weeks," he said.

Senior Abbas aide Nabil Abu Rdeneh said he was unaware of a possibility to resume talks in the near future. "All we know, all that the world knows is that settlement activity should stop," he said.

"This is the only way to enter serious negotiations that lead to a just, fair and stable peace in the whole region," he added in a statement.

Another Abbas aide, Nimir Hamad, said Palestinians were studying Netanyahu's remarks as well as an offer by U.S. envoy George Mitchell to conduct shuttle diplomacy with Israel.

One obstacle to a peace agreement is a split between the West Bank and Gaza, and a step toward healing that rift



came Wednesday. Palestinians hope to establish a state in the West Bank and Gaza, which are separated by Israeli territory.

The Islamic militant Hamas overran Gaza in 2007, expelling Fatah loyalists of Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, leaving him in command only of the West Bank.

On Wednesday, senior Fatah official Nabil Shaath crossed into Gaza for talks with Hamas, the first such mission since the Hamas takeover.

At a joint news conference

in Gaza City after sundown Wednesday, Shaath and Hamas official Khalil al-Haya both said the talks were meant to lead to reconciliation, though neither detailed steps to overcome the differences.

However, the cordial tone of the meeting was a contrast to a year of insults flying back and forth between the two sides.

Shaath's Gaza home was looted and burned down by Hamas forces during the takeover. "This visit has come late," said Shaath after entering Gaza. "We cannot continue with these divisions." □



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Parents willingly gave Haitian children to U.S. Baptists

FRANK BAJAK

Associated Press Writer

CALLEBAS, Haiti (AP)

— Parents in this struggling village above Haiti's capital said Wednesday they willingly handed their children to American missionaries who showed up in a bus promising to give them a better life — contradicting claims by the Baptist group's leader that the children came from orphanages and distant relatives.

The 10 Baptists, most from Idaho, were arrested last week trying to take 33 Haitian children across the border into the Dominican Republic without the required documents, according to outraged Haitian officials, who have called them child traffickers.

An investigating magistrate was questioning the five men Wednesday after interrogating the women a day earlier. A district attorney will then determine whether to file charges, officials said.

The Haitian parents told The Associated Press they surrendered their children on Jan. 28, two days after a



Residents of the mountain village of Callebas, Haiti, including Melanie Augustin, left, and Sorianta Leantus, second from right, pose for a photo Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010. Parents in this struggling village said they willingly handed 20 children over to the American missionaries who promised the kids a better life, contradicting claims by the Baptist group's leader that the children came from orphanages and distant relatives. Augustin gave away her 10-year-old daughter, Jozin, and Leantus, who's pregnant with her third child, gave away her a 6-year-old daughter to the American missionaries who were later arrested by Haitian authorities after trying to cross the border with the children without the required paperwork.

local orphanage worker acting on behalf of the Baptists convened nearly the entire village of about 500 people on a dirt soccer pitch to present the Americans' offer.

The orphanage worker, Issac Adrien, said he told the villagers their children would be educated at a home in the Dominican Republic so that they might eventually return

collapsed in the quake.

The missionaries' lawyer, Jorge Puello, told the AP on Wednesday "they willingly accepted kids they knew were not orphans because the parents said they would starve otherwise."

The parents of four children taken by Silsby said the Americans took down contact information for all the families and assured them that a relative would be able to visit them in the Dominican Republic.

Silsby's Central Valley Baptist Church in Meridian, Idaho, had begun planning last year to build an orphanage, school and church in Magante, on the northern coast of the Dominican Republic. Their plan was to work with U.S. adoption agencies to find "loving Christian parents" for Haitian and Dominican children. When the quake struck, the church members decided to act immediately, renting a hotel in a nearby Dominican beach resort and hiring a bus to collect children from the disaster area.

Adrien said he had no knowledge of the group's larger plans; villagers said they were told none of their children would be offered for adoption.

Laurentius Lelly, a 27-year-old computer technician, said he gave up his two children, ages 4 and 6, because Silsby had previously visited the area and earned people's trust.

Lelly said he is no longer so sure about her trustworthiness, and said he was worried the Haitian judicial system would fail to properly investigate the case. No Haitian police or social welfare investigators have visited the village since the Americans were arrested at the border, the parents said.

"I would like to find out if these people were really going to help the kids or were trying to steal them," Lelly said. The children, ranging in age from 2 to 12, are now being cared for at the Austrian-run SOS Children's Village in Port-au-Prince. An official there, Patricia Vargas, said none of the children who were old enough to talk said they were parentless. □

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Genocide charge now possible for Sudan's al-Bashir

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press Writer

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The International Criminal Court will again consider charging Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir with genocide in Darfur, after an appeals panel ruled that judges made an "error in law" when they refused to indict him on that charge last year.

"He should get a lawyer," court prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo said after ruling Wednesday. He accused al-Bashir of keeping 2.5 million refugees from specific ethnic groups in Darfur in camps "under genocide conditions, like a gigantic Auschwitz."

The appeals decision — which said the burden of proof should be lower when prosecutors seek an indictment than when they try to secure a conviction at trial — fueled hopes among human rights activists that prosecutors will indict other leaders around the world for atrocities.

The court is currently considering allegations of atrocities in countries from Colombia to Kenya, Gaza to Afghanistan, but has so far launched formal prosecutions in just four countries, all of them in Africa.

"This gives a new wind to the sails of international justice,"

said Kenyan human rights activist Njonjo Mue.

Moreno Ocampo welcomed the decision to reopen the Darfur genocide case and vowed to give judges even more evidence when they again consider charging al-Bashir with genocide.

A five-judge appeals chamber said the International Criminal Court wrongly concluded in March that there was insufficient evidence to charge al-Bashir with three counts of genocide for allegedly attempting to wipe out entire ethnic groups in the war-ravaged province of Darfur. Instead, the court charged him with seven counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for allegedly orchestrating a campaign of murder, torture, rape and forced expulsions in Darfur.

The Sudanese president refuses to recognize the court's jurisdiction and has vowed never to surrender to it. Since the charges were issued, he has traveled to friendly countries but called off trips to nations where he fears he could be arrested and sent to The Hague.

Al-Bashir's hardline regime also threw out 13 international aid agencies working in Darfur last March when the court first indicted him. The

move further compounded the humanitarian crisis in a region where 300,000 people have died since fighting broke out in 2003 between the government and rebels. The United Nations says 2.7 million people have been driven from their homes by the conflict.

"For me, the fact that President Bashir expelled the humanitarian organizations is confirming that his intention is the physical destruction of these people," Moreno Ocampo told The Associated Press in his office at the court.

In Washington, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley would not say specifically whether the U.S. favored the prosecution of Bashir. "The United States strongly supports international efforts to bring those responsible for genocide and war crimes in Darfur to justice and believes firmly that there cannot be a lasting peace in Darfur without accountability and justice," Crowley said.

Wednesday's ruling set an important precedent because it marked the first time the world's first permanent war crimes court has dealt with a genocide case, said David Crane, a law professor at Syracuse University and former chief prosecutor at the Special Court for Sierra



This Sept. 14, 2007 file photo shows Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir at a joint press conference with Italian Premier Romano Prodi, unseen, after their meeting at Chigi Palace, in Rome.

Associated Press

Leone.

The appeals bench effectively said "lower the bar, take a look at the evidence again and see what you come up with," Crane said in a telephone interview.

William R. Pace of the Coalition for the ICC, a nongovernment group that supports the court, also hailed the decision's significance, saying it could for the first time "lead to the inclusion of charges of genocide by ICC judges for a sitting head of state."

What it didn't do was bring al-Bashir any closer to justice. On Wednesday he was in Qatar at

Darfur peace talks.

Rabie Abdel-Attie, a Sudan government spokesman, said Wednesday's decision will not affect al-Bashir's bid to run again for presidency at elections expected in April, and claimed it reflected the court's isolation from reality on the ground in Sudan.

"The government doesn't give the court any consideration and doesn't care much for it. This is a matter of principle," he told the AP from Khartoum. "The court is heading in one direction and we in the other." Moreno Ocampo credited his investigations in Darfur with energizing peace efforts. □

More questions as 'Lost' begins its last season

By FRAZIER MOORE,
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — Hopeful, breathless, even fretful over what may lie ahead or be forever unexplained, "Lost" fans have welcomed back the ABC mystical thriller for its sixth season — the beginning of its long-coming, too-close-for-comfort finale.

The end is coming May 23, according to "Lost" co-creators Carlton Cuse and Damon Lindelof, who made it official Tuesday during their guest appearances on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!"

The first two of the final 18 "Lost" hours had aired earlier in the evening — and won a warm reception from the audience.

This season premiere attracted 12.1 million viewers, against first-place CBS dramas "NCIS: Los Angeles" (with 16.4 million) and "The Good Wife" (12.7 million), according to the Nielsen Co. In the advertiser-coveted 18-to-49-year-old demographic, "Lost" beat its nearest competitor, NBC's "Biggest Loser," by 51 percent. But did the "Lost" opener succeed in addressing the pair of island mysteries gnawing at viewers since last May?

What was the upshot of the kookie nuclear explosion Jack

(Matthew Fox) masterminded to rewrite history and render the series' whole story line moot? And what's the scoop with the dead John Locke (Terry O'Quinn) coexisting with his very-much-alive John Locke look-alike?

(Warning: possible pesky spoilers ahead.)

Well, Jack is seen back on Oceanic Airlines Flight 815, and despite several moments of troubling turbulence, soon enough all seems well.

"Looks like we made it," Jack says to a fellow passenger as the flight smooths out.

Was this a replay of the original flight, just before the plane was pulled apart by electromagnetic energy and crashed in the series premiere?

Maybe Jack's grand plan to prevent that crash didn't work.

Or maybe it did.

Then the action shifts to the island and the construction site of the Swan station, where the nuclear bomb had been detonated at last season's end to cap the deep pocket of electromagnetic forces. Jack, Kate (Evangeline Lilly) and Sawyer (Josh Holloway) are bloodied and shaken up by the eruption.

And Juliet (Elizabeth Mitchell), who set off the nuke

after plunging to the bottom of the shaft with the bomb, is found by Sawyer alive. Alive long enough for their tearful farewell, anyway.

Elsewhere, the island's über-boss, Jacob (Mark Pellegrino), who was apparently stabbed and burned to death in last season's finale, seems in fine fettle long enough to declare, "I died an hour ago."

As for the live version of Locke: Seems as though this is the human alter ego for the mysterious Smoke Monster, which has plagued the islanders in the past.

"I'm sorry you had to see me like that," he tells Ben (Michael Emerson), who is shocked by the sight of the carnage inflicted on Jacob's thuggish security guards.

"What are you?" asks Ben when the monster reverts to Locke's human form.

"I'm not a what, Ben. I'm a who," says ersatz Locke.

"You're the monster," Ben insists.

"Let's not resort to name-calling," the Locke character says.

Then this creature that looks like Locke delivers a tribute to the real and real-dead Locke: "He was weak and pathetic and irreparably broken. But despite all that, there was something admirable about him: He was



This photo released by ABC shows Evangeline Lilly, left, and Josh Holloway a scene from 'Lost' which returns for its final season. The end is coming May 23, according to 'Lost' co-creators Carlton Cuse and Damon Lindelof, who made it official Tuesday Feb. 2, 2010, during guest appearances on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live!'

(AP Photo/ABC, Mario Perez)

the only one of them who didn't want to leave. The only one who realized how pitiful the life he left behind actually was."

Halfway through the program, the passengers of Oceanic 815 — including Locke, Jack and

other prominent characters — are seen deplaning after the jet has safely landed in Los Angeles. Oddly, they mostly appear less than happy to be there, unhappy with themselves. Even pitiful in their lives.

Jackson family wants harsher charge against doctor

By THOMAS WATKINS
and LINDA DEUTSCH,
Associated Press Writers

LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson's family believes involuntary manslaughter charges against the pop singer's physician would be "just a slap on the wrist," attorney Brian Oxman said Wednesday.

Oxman told CBS' "The Early Show" that Dr. Conrad Murray displayed recklessness in dispensing powerful drugs to help Jackson sleep, warranting a second-degree murder charge. Involuntary manslaughter — the charge prosecutors reportedly plan to seek — carries a maximum jail sentence of just four years.

"That is just a slap on the wrist, and a slap in the face, because Michael Jackson was someone who we knew was in

danger of being brought to his knees, brought his death, by the use of these medications," Oxman said.

Murray's attorney said the doctor is ready to surrender to authorities if prosecutors file charges. While there is no public timetable for charges to be filed against Murray, there are strong indications the move is imminent.

Murray, who has a practice in Houston, came to Los Angeles last weekend and spent Tuesday afternoon meeting with his newly assembled team of three lawyers. The district attorney's office has not said if it will file charges but lead defense attorney Ed Chernoff said Murray is ready for such a move.

"I haven't received any phone call from anybody asking for the doctor to surrender," □



FILE - In this Nov. 23, 2009 file picture, Dr. Conrad Murray arrives at his clinic in Houston. Michael Jackson's physician has arrived in Los Angeles in anticipation of a decision from the district attorney's office on whether to charge him for the singer's death, a spokeswoman said Tuesday Feb. 2, 2010.

(AP Photo/Pat Sullivan, File)

Cowell's Haiti charity single gets first airing

LONDON — A star-studded British single to raise money for victims of the earthquake in Haiti has had its first radio airplay.

The cover of R.E.M.'s 1993 ballad "Everybody Hurts" made its debut on breakfast-time broadcasts Tuesday.

Susan Boyle, Rod Stewart, Leona Lewis, Kylie Minogue and Robbie Williams are all featured on the track, coordinated by TV mogul Simon Cowell.

R.E.M. has agreed to waive royalties and the British government says the record will be exempt from sales tax. It goes on sale by download Sunday and will be in stores starting Monday.

The song is one of several records raising money for victims of the Jan. 12 quake. Another is a re-recording of 1985 anthem "We Are The World" by 80 artists including Pink, Celine Dion and Kanye West. □

BUSINESS Aruba TODAY

Stocks slip as growth in services falls short

By STEPHEN BERNARD
and TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — The stock market retreated from a two-day rally Wednesday after growth in the nation's service businesses fell short of expectations.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 19 points after jumping 230 points in the past two days. The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index saw a steeper drop, while the Nasdaq composite index was little changed.

The Institute for Supply Management said its index of service activity rose to 50.5 in January from a revised 49.8 in December. The January reading was below the level of 51 analysts polled by Thomson Reuters had been expecting. Any number above 50 signals

growth.

The weaker activity in service companies chilled enthusiasm about a report that private employers cut fewer jobs than expected last month. The news on jobs from ADP, a payroll company, comes ahead of the government's January employment report on Friday, which is expected to show employers added 5,000 jobs in the first month of the year but that employment edged up to 10.1 percent from 10 percent. ADP said employers cut 22,000 non-farm, private jobs last month. That was the best showing since employment started to weaken in February 2008.

A disappointing earnings report and forecast from drug maker Pfizer dragged health care stocks lower.

Stocks jumped the first

two days of this week on encouraging reports about the economy. The advance came after stocks ended January with a loss. The market retreated late last month on concerns that the recovery was faltering and a strong 10-month rally was running out of steam.

Events in Washington continued to ripple through the stock market.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said he misspoke when he said early Wednesday that owners of Toyota cars and trucks should stop driving them because of problems with accelerator pedals in some models. Toyota shares fell sharply but pulled off their lows after LaHood clarified his remarks.

The zigzag in Toyota's stock was the latest reminder that events in Washington are high



FILE - In this Dec. 31, 2009 file photo, snow falls outside the New York Stock Exchange in New York. Stocks retreated modestly early Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010, following a mixed batch of earnings.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams, file)

on investors' list of concerns. Worries that tougher laws, including President Barack

Obama's proposal to restrict banks trading activity, would hurt profits helped drive the market lower last month.

"It isn't surprising that when you get this sort of populist uprising and everybody kind of plays to that," said Max Bublitz, chief strategist at SCM Advisors in San Francisco. "You're going to get these spikes of volatility."

In midafternoon trading, the Dow fell 18.82, or 0.2 percent, to 10,278.03. The S&P 500 index fell 4.83, or 0.4 percent, to 1,098.49, while the Nasdaq slipped 0.70, or less than 0.1 percent, to 2,189.36.

Two stocks fell for everyone that rose on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 619.8 million shares compared with 679.9 million shares traded at the same point Tuesday.

The Dow rose 230 points over Monday and Tuesday on positive news about manufacturing and housing. The gain was the biggest back-to-back advance for the Dow in three months.

In other trading Wednesday, bond prices fell and pushed yields higher. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.68 percent from 3.65 percent late Tuesday.

The dollar rose against other major currencies, while gold fell.

Crude oil fell 49 cents to \$76.74 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Kim Caughey, vice president and investment analyst at Fort Pitt Capital Group in Pittsburgh, said the economic numbers are driving short-term trading but that uncertainty about how lawmakers might rewrite the rules that govern corporations is still hanging over the market.

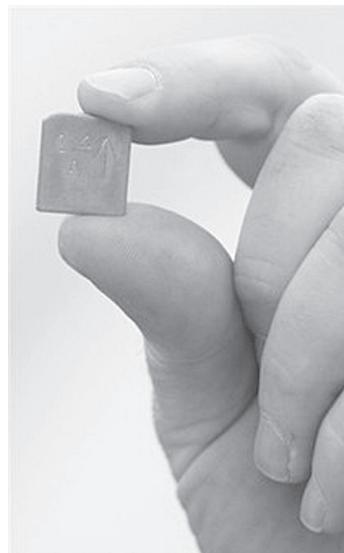
"There is tough language in some bills out there that if passed currently could prove chilling," she said. "I'm betting that that there will be some damage done but not nuclear Armageddon."

Pfizer Inc. posted increased fourth-quarter earnings but the results were weaker than analysts had forecast. The stock fell 48 cents, or 2.5 percent, to \$18.58.

Toyota Motor Corp. shares fell \$3.83, or 4.9 percent, to \$74.35 after being down as much as 8 percent.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 4.66, or 0.8 percent, to 609.39.

Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.6 percent, Germany's DAX index lost 0.7 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 0.5 percent. Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 0.3 percent.



A shim that will be used to repair springs in the gas pedal systems of recalled Toyota automobiles is displayed at a Toyota dealer, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010, in Topsham, Maine. Toyota Motor Corp. has issued the parts to fix sticky gas pedals but the 4.2 million customers affected by the recall will have to wait until technicians are trained.

(AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

considering other marketing efforts to win back customers' confidence, but he didn't elaborate. □

Toyota pays dealers up to \$75,000 for longer hours

By DEE-ANN DURBIN,
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT — Toyota Motor Corp. is giving U.S. dealers payments of up to \$75,000 to help win back customers' trust in the wake of a massive safety recall.

"Within the next several days, you will receive a check from us (no strings attached) with a simple request - 'do the right thing on behalf of Toyota customers,'" Toyota group vice president Bob Carter said in the letter to dealers that was sent late Tuesday and obtained by The Associated Press.

Carter thanks dealers for extending service hours and providing car washes and other services. He also suggested other measures, like additional hires to help with recall repairs, mobile repair services, dedicated recall service lanes and complimentary oil changes.

"Toyota dealers already know the first and most critical step of rebuilding the confidence and trust of Toyota owners is the interaction and service they receive in your dealership," Carter said.

Toyota recalled 2.3 million vehicles in the U.S. last month because their accelerator pedals may stick and cause crashes. The automaker is sending parts to repair the pedals this week. Separately, Toyota recalled 5 million vehicles to fix floor mats that could inadvertently trap the accelerator pedals.

Toyota is sending checks this week based on the number of cars each dealer sold last year. Dealers who sold fewer than 500 cars will get \$7,500. Dealers who sold more than 4,000 will get \$75,000. Toyota has around 1,200 U.S. dealers.

Carter said Toyota is

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

THE INFLUENCE GAME: NFL players prepare defense

By FREDERIC J.
FROMMER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A year without a Super Bowl? It may be unthinkable to football fans, but that's one worry behind a new lobbying push by NFL players.

The NFL Players Association is bracing for a showdown with team owners that could lead to a work stoppage when the current collective bargaining deal expires. Hoping to enlist powerful allies, the players' group is ratcheting up its lobbying on Capitol Hill under new executive director DeMaurice Smith.

The players union spent \$220,000 on lobbying in the second half of last year, more than double what it had spent in all of the previous year. Last May, soon after taking over at the union, Smith switched lobbyists, hiring Patton Boggs, the powerhouse Washington firm where he had been a partner.



In this June 4, 2009 file photo, House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers, Jr., right, along with NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith, left, and the Baltimore Ravens Domonique Foxworth are seen on Capitol Hill in Washington. A year without a Super Bowl? It may be unthinkable to football fans, but that's a worry behind a new lobbying push by NFL players. The NFL Players Association is bracing for a showdown with team owners that could lead to a work stoppage when the current collective bargaining deal expires, ratcheting up its lobbying on Capitol Hill under new executive director DeMaurice Smith.

Associated Press

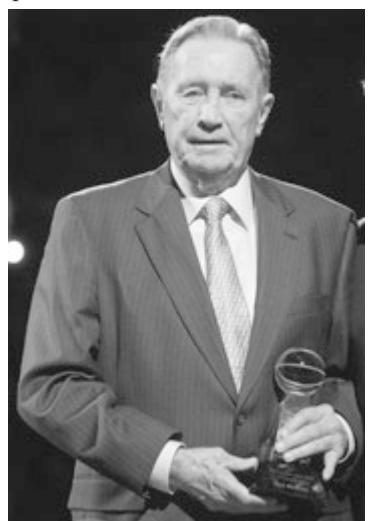
Continued on Page 14

Knicks Hall of Famer Dick McGuire dies at 84

of Famer and longtime member of the New York Knicks organization, died on Wednesday of natural causes. He was 84.

The Knicks said McGuire died at Huntington Hospital in Long Island. McGuire still worked for the Knicks as a senior basketball consultant. He was a part of the Knicks' organization for 53 of its 64 seasons.

“Dick McGuire was the epitome of what it means to be a Knickerbocker: Pride, tradition and class,” Knicks president Donnie Walsh said in a statement. “It was an honor to watch him play for our hometown team and I consider myself very lucky to say I worked alongside a man who shaped the National Basketball Association for parts of all eight decades of its existence.” □



TITLE — In this March 25, 2009, file photo, former New York Knicks player Dick McGuire poses for a photograph as he is honored during a halftime ceremony of the Knicks' NBA basketball game against the Orlando Magic in New York. McGuire, a basketball Hall of Famer and longtime member of the New York Knicks organization, died on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010, the team said. He was 84.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Dick McGuire, a basketball Hall

Since then, he's organized a couple of player lobby days, featuring dozens of current and former players who bring their star power to meetings with lawmakers and congressional staffers.

Those making the rounds have included Washington Redskins wide receiver Antwaan Randle El and Kevin Mawae, a Pro-Bowl Tennessee Titans center and president of the players' union.

The union has said it fears the owners will impose a lockout after next season's Super Bowl, and it has been building relationships on Capitol Hill in hopes of getting Congress' help in keeping the games going. The league counters that a new collective bargaining agreement will get done, but owners also contend the existing agreement, which calls for players to receive about 60 percent of revenues, is too favorable for players.

Naranjeros win opener in Caribbean Series



Dominican Republic's infielder Kevin Barker, second from left, is congratulated by teammates after his home run against Puerto Rico at a Caribbean Series baseball game in Porlamar on Margarita Island, Venezuela, Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2010.

MARGARITA ISLAND, Venezuela (AP) — Mexican club Naranjeros de Hermosillo and Leones del Escogido of the Dominican Republic opened the Caribbean Series baseball tournament on a winning note Tuesday.

Naranjeros defeated Venezuela's Leones del Caracas 7-2 after Leones del Escogido beat Indios

de Mayaguez of Puerto Rico 2-1 in the opening game of the six-day, four team tournament. Leones del Caracas were in trouble from the first inning when a two-out fielding error by Gregorio Petit with two runners on base set the stage for a triple by Ruben Rivera that gave Naranjeros a 2-0 lead. The Mexicans scored four more

in the fourth inning to take control. Naranjeros starting pitcher Pablo Ortega worked five innings, yielding two runs. Earlier, Kevin Barker's solo home run made a winner of Leones del Escogido pitcher Raul Valdes, who allowed one run and six hits over six innings with eight strikeouts.

Leones del Escogido took the lead in the bottom of the first inning when Freddy Guzman scored after reaching first base on a throwing error by shortstop Luis Figueroa. He moved to second on a sacrifice bunt, stole third and scored on a fielder's choice.

Indios leveled the scores in the top of the sixth on back-to-back singles by Miguel Abreu and Jesus Feliciano.

Figueroa moved the runners over with a sacrifice bunt and Abreu scored on a fielder's choice.

Barker won the game with his home run in the bottom of the sixth. □

NBA Roundup

James sets career high for assists as Cavs win

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James tied a career high with 15 assists to help the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the worn-down Memphis Grizzlies 105-89 on Tuesday for their ninth straight NBA victory.

James scored 22 but was more focused on setting up his teammates. It was the fifth time in six games he has had at least 10 assists, accepting

the challenge of running Cleveland's offense while the club waits for guards Mo Williams and Delonte West to return from injuries. Shaquille O'Neal ruled beneath the hoop, collecting 13 points and 13 rebounds in 21 minutes as Cleveland again won comfortably — the Cavaliers have won their past four games by an average of 19 points.

Rudy Gay scored 15 for Memphis, playing its fourth game in five nights.

Thunder 106, Hawks 99

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant had 33 points and 11 rebounds as Oklahoma City recovered from blowing a 13-point lead and still beat Atlanta.

Durant became the first player since Allen Iverson nine seasons ago to score at least 25 points in 22 consecutive games. He made two free throws with 10 seconds left to complete a perfect 14-for-14 night at the foul line.

With Atlanta within two points, Durant hit jump shot of back-to-back possessions to make it 97-93 and then set up a three points by Jeff Green and a layup by Russell Westbrook that sealed the result.

Green finished with 19 points.

In Orlando, Florida, Vince Carter had 17 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists to lead undermanned Orlando over Milwaukee.

The struggling shooting guard had by far his most efficient game in more than a month, giving Orlando its seventh win in eight games. Charlie Bell and Luke Ridnour had 13 points apiece for the Bucks, who had their three-game winning streak snapped. Milwaukee fell to 0-3 against Orlando this season.

Clippers 90, Bulls 82

In Chicago, Los Angeles snapped a four-game losing skid with a surprise win over Chicago.

Chris Kaman had 21 points and 11 rebounds in his return from injury and Eric Gordon scored 24 points for the Clippers.

Back home after finishing a long road trip with five

impressive victories over good Western Conference teams, the Bulls shot 38 percent and committed 20 turnovers in losing to the struggling Clippers.

Luol Deng scored 16 of his 18 points in the first quarter for Chicago.

Pacers 130, Raptors 115

In Indianapolis, Toronto's run of five straight wins was ended in a high-scoring encounter against Indiana.

Danny Granger scored 23 points and Troy Murphy had 20 points and 14 rebounds as Indiana got its first win in four.

Lester Conner coached the Pacers in place of Jim O'Brien, who attended a family funeral.

Chris Bosh had 35 points and 15 rebounds for the Raptors. Rockets 119, Warriors 97

In Houston, Aaron Brooks and Carl Landry scored 24 points apiece to lead Houston over Golden State.

The Rockets still finished their season-longest six-game homestand with a disappointing 2-4 record.

Monta Ellis scored 34 points for the Warriors, who've lost six in a row overall and 12 of their past 13 road games.

Corey Maggette, Golden State's second-leading scorer, sat out with a hip injury.

The Rockets shot 50 percent and outrebounded the Warriors 57-35 to beat Golden State for the ninth straight time.

Pistons 97, Nets 93

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Detroit won its first game in six by edging dismal New Jersey.

Tayshaun Prince slammed down a dunk on an inbounds play with 46 seconds left to put the Pistons ahead to stay. Richard Hamilton had 11 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter, including three free throws in the final 21 seconds.

Brook Lopez led New Jersey with 27 points on 11-of-16 shooting from the field. The Nets were outscored 10-2 in the final 2:22.

In other NBA games it was, Indiana 130, Toronto 115, Cleveland 105, Memphis 89,

Orlando 99, Milwaukee 82, Detroit 97, New Jersey 93, L.A. Clippers 90, Chicago 82,

Oklahoma City 106, Atlanta 99, and Houston 119, Golden State 97. □



New Orleans Hornets guard Darren Collison (2) sits with Hornets starting guard Chris Paul during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Phoenix Suns in New Orleans, Monday, Feb. 1, 2010. Paul injured his knee during a game Wednesday, reinjured it Friday, and is out indefinitely.

Associated Press

Hornets All-Star Chris Paul set for knee surgery

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — New Orleans point guard Chris Paul will have knee surgery on Thursday and likely miss the NBA All-Star game next week.

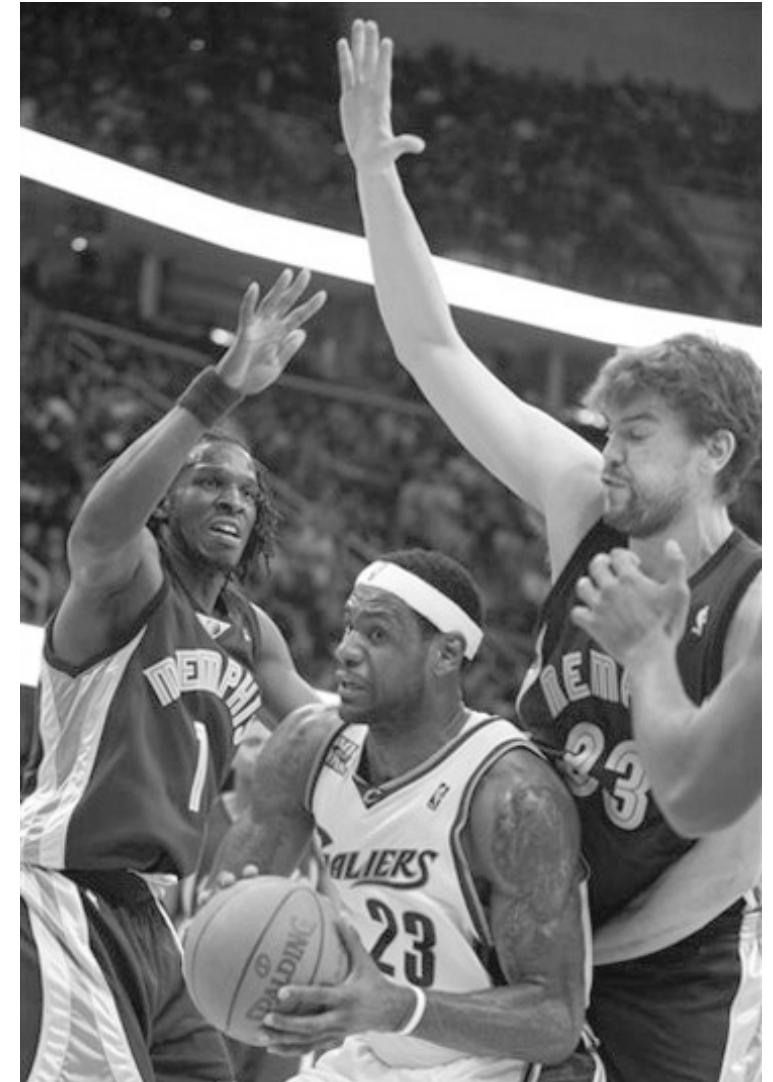
Hornets coach Jeff Bower said Paul needed to repair a torn meniscus in his left knee. The All-Star weekend is Feb. 12-14 in Dallas.

Although Paul was likely to be sidelined for up to a month, Bower wouldn't give a timetable for his return.

"We are anticipating a very successful process," Bower said on Wednesday. "The time frame will be determined after the surgery. I won't speculate on that."

Paul hurt the knee on Jan. 27 against Golden State, then aggravated the injury when he collided with a camera while chasing an errant pass in the final seconds of regulation time in the Chicago Bulls on Friday.

Paul averages a team-high 20.4 points and an NBA-best 11.2 assists. He was the runner-up to the Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant for league MVP in 2007-08 and finished fifth last season. □





PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem, right, and pro golfer Phil Mickelson greet each other as Mickelson arrives and Finchem leaves a news conference on the Pro-Am day of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010.

Associated Press

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Phil Mickelson won't be using the Ping Eye2 wedge that led a fellow player to accuse him of "cheating," even though he hopes others will use the controversial club to keep attention on what he calls a ridiculous rule.

"I won't be playing that wedge. My point has been made," Mickelson said on Wednesday on the eve of his two-time title defense at Riviera. "But if these governing bodies cannot get together to fix this loophole, if players stop using this wedge — which would stop the pressure of the issue — then I will relook at it and put the wedge back in play." The Ping wedge has grooves that no longer conform under a new U.S. Golf Association regulation, adopted by the U.S. PGA Tour. However, any Ping wedge made before April 1, 1990, is approved for play under a legal settlement from two decades ago.

Mickelson is among five players who have used the Ping wedge in competition this year.

Several players believe using the club goes against the spirit of the new grooves regulation, although Scott McCarron fueled the debate when he said

of Mickelson and others, "It's cheating."

Mickelson hinted at legal action after saying he was "publicly slandered." He said McCarron offered him a sincere apology late Tuesday, which he accepted.

"We all make mistakes, and we all say things we wish we could take back," Mickelson said. "I've done it a bunch in my career. And the fact that it's also not easy to come up and face that person, look them in the eye and apologize ... I appreciate him being a big enough man to do that."

Instead, Mickelson vented his anger at the USGA and its lack of transparency in developing the new rules for grooves. He has complained that he's submitted wedges that fit the guidelines, only for the USGA to reject the club for violating the intent of the new rule.

"I'm very upset with the way the rule came about, the way one man essentially can approve or not approve a golf club based on his own personal decision, regardless of what the rule says," Mickelson said. "This has got to change."

The next step remains murky. Tour commissioner Tim Finchem met with players on Tuesday and conceded that tour officials did not realize a Ping wedge from 20 years

Phil Mickelson accepts apology, won't use wedge

ago would become such a big issue.

Finchem said the Ping Eye2 wedge produces spin at about 60 percent of the rate from last year's wedges, but about 10 percent more than wedges approved for competition this year.

"The assumption was made last year that very few, if any, players would use that club because they're 20 years old," Finchem said. "I think we underestimated that a little bit."

He said the tour could either do nothing and monitor how many players used wedges, an option that seemed unlikely

because Finchem said it still raised issues over fairness in competition. Some players are going to eBay to find the clubs, as Ping stopped making them and now only can confirm through serial numbers when the wedges were made.

The other option is to work out an agreement with Ping chairman and CEO John Solheim. He said Solheim was to meet with the USGA over the next few weeks, and "I can only hope progress is made in that regard."

Ping plays the biggest role in any solution because of its lawsuits against the USGA and U.S. PGA Tour over square

grooves.

Finchem said the third option involved a complicated process in which the tour's independent committee on equipment tries to establish a local rule. He called that a "cumbersome process."

Any solution could be weeks, if not months, away.

In the meantime, Mickelson said he would not use the wedge at the Northern Trust Open, even though he's hopeful others will.

"If there's no pressure among these organizations to make changes, I will immediately put the club back in play," Mickelson said. □

NFL - Continued from Page 12

"I believe that our players have a role in making this game better for our fans, and being business partners with the NFL to grow the game," Smith said in an interview. "At the same time, we want to make sure that partnership doesn't become one-sided. Every major union in the country has a presence on the Hill."

Smith said that the increased lobbying was in part a reaction to the NFL's own expanded Washington presence. In 2008, the league hired an in-house lobbyist, former Capitol Hill staffer Jeff Miller, and established a political action committee to raise campaign money. Last year, the NFL's "Gridiron PAC" made about \$250,000 in political donations. The union doesn't have a PAC.

Even with the union's increased lobbying, the NFL continues to vastly outspend it. In the last six months of 2009, the NFL reported \$610,000 in lobbying expenses, nearly triple the union's total. Smith said another factor in the union's increased lobbying expenditures was the recent Supreme Court case in which the NFL argued it should be considered one business — not 32 separate teams — when it comes to selling NFL-branded items. The players are worried that a broad ruling from the court, which heard arguments in the antitrust case last month, could go well beyond merchandise.

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, a union executive committee member who will start in Sunday's Super Bowl against the Indianapolis Colts, recently warned that a favorable decision for the NFL would enable owners to end or restrict free agency. The league insists the case is only about licensing of intellectual property and has nothing to do with labor.

Smith brings Washington connections to the job. In addition to being a partner at Patton Boggs, he served on the Obama transition team and previously worked for Eric Holder, now the nation's attorney general.

"We recognize that Congress has a legitimate role in a myriad of issues that affect our players, their families, and our fans, beyond just the labor issues," Smith said. In particular, Smith said that he decided to take an aggressive position on head injuries and their lasting effects on players.

"That was an issue that I felt that not only had the NFL not done enough in the past, but we as a union had not done enough in the past," said Smith, who testified at two congressional hearings on the subject over the past few months. Congress has leverage over the league in several areas, including an antitrust exemption for broadcasting contracts. That exemption, which allows the NFL to sign TV contracts on behalf of all teams, helped to transform the league into the economic powerhouse it is today.

"It's a question of Congress exercising oversight authority that it has, and to ask the right questions given the gifts they give to the National Football League," Smith said. "Our players made the point of saying, the antitrust exemption that the league gets in Congress is a gift. We do think that Congress should be assured that that gift is being used in a way that benefits our fans, our players and the owners." NFL vice president Joe Browne said in an e-mail that most lawmakers realize that the league has used the exemption to keep games on broadcast TV.

"That benefits NFL fans, players and the clubs," he said. "The players actually benefit the most monetarily since they receive 60 percent of the TV revenue through the labor agreement."

Smith said that he hired his old firm because "they're the best. And one of the reasons I know they're the best is I know that the NFL has looked at them as well."

Browne confirmed that the league interviewed Jonathan Yarowsky, a Patton Boggs partner, for outside lobbying work last year. Yarowsky is one of the Patton Boggs lobbyists now working for the union. □

NHL Roundup

Red Wings too good for Sharks again

SAN JOSE, California (AP) — The Detroit Red Wings came from an early two-goal deficit to beat San Jose 4-2 on Tuesday, extending their uncanny dominance of the NHL Western Conference-leading Sharks.

Derek Meech scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period, while Dan Cleary, Henrik Zetterberg, and Patrick Eaves also found the net for the Red Wings, who are 3-0 against the Sharks but have struggled against almost everyone else this season. The Red Wings, who have won the Western Conference the past two seasons, are fighting just to make the playoffs this year in a season hampered by injuries.

Joe Thornton scored both goals for the Sharks, whose only two regulation losses in their past 12 games have been at home against Detroit.

Capitals 4, Bruins 1

In Boston, Washington set a franchise record with an 11th straight win and sent Boston to its eighth consecutive loss. Washington — the league's highest-scoring team — trailed Boston — the league's lowest-scoring team — after David Krejci's first-period goal. But the Capitals tied it through Mike Knuble's early in the second, and Brooks Laich put the visitors ahead in the third. That was followed soon after by Boyd Gordon's goal and Alex Ovechkin added the late empty-netter.

The Capitals broke the club record streak set in 1983-84 and have the NHL's longest winning streak since San Jose also won 11 in a row late in the 2007-08 season.

Washington took over the league points lead from San Jose.

Coyotes 1, Predators 0, SO

In Nashville, Tennessee, Adrian Aucoin lifted a wrister over the glove of Nashville goalie Pekka Rinne in the 10th round of the shootout to give Phoenix its fifth straight win. Phoenix's Lauri Korpikoski scored in the second round of the shootout, but David

Legwand tied it as Nashville's third shooter. The Predators had a chance to keep the shootout going after Aucoin scored, but Shea Weber's shot went wide.

The Coyotes matched their best winning streak of the season.

In Montreal, Vancouver's seven-game winning run was ended by Montreal.

Jaroslav Halak made 45 saves, while Sergei Kostitsyn, Maxim Lapierre and Tomas Plekanec scored for the Canadiens, who won their first game in four. Mikael Samuelsson and Ryan Kesler scored power-play goals for the Canucks, who were playing the second of 14 straight away games caused by Vancouver hosting the Olympics.

Kings 2, Rangers 1

In Los Angeles, the hosts made it seven straight wins by edging punchless New York. Anze Kopitar scored a short-handed goal and Jonathan Quick made 20 saves, while Ryan Smyth scored late for the Kings, who are on their longest winning streak since early 1992, when Wayne Gretzky led the Kings to a franchise-record eight straight.

Marian Gaborik scored with 2:37 left to ruin Quick's shutout bid, but New York lost its sixth in seven games despite the arrivals of new forwards Olli Jokinen and Brandon Prust, acquired in a trade with Calgary less than 24 hours earlier.

Avalanche 5, Blue Jackets 1

In Denver, Brandon Yip had two goals, including the go-ahead score, as Colorado ended a run of three losses by routing Columbus.

Ryan O'Reilly added a pair of short-handed goals as the Avalanche completed a sweep of the four-game season series with the Blue Jackets.

Columbus' goal came from Kyle Quincey.

In Toronto, Jean-Sebastien Giguere and Dion Phaneuf made the most of their Maple Leafs debuts as Toronto topped New Jersey to snap a six-game losing streak.

Giguere finished with 30 saves, becoming only the second goalie in team history to record a shutout in his debut. By the end of the first period, Phaneuf had landed a hit, took part in a fight, and received an ovation.

Nikolai Kulemin, Phil Kessel and defenseman Francois Beauchemin scored for the Leafs.

In other NHL games, Phoenix 1, Nashville 0, SO; Washington 4, Boston 1; Toronto 3, New Jersey 0; Tampa Bay 2, Atlanta 1; Montreal 3, Vancouver 2; Dallas 4, Minnesota 2; Colorado 5, Columbus 1; Los Angeles 2, N.Y. Rangers 1; and Detroit 4, San Jose 2. □



San Jose Sharks' Joe Thornton (19) waits for a pass between Detroit Red Wings' defenders Nicklas Lidstrom (5), Henrik Zetterberg (40) and goalie Jimmy Howard, right, during the second period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2010, in San Jose, Calif.

Associated Press



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Colts, Saints show passing now wins in NFL

STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — In the 1973 Super Bowl, Bob Griese threw a grand total of 11 passes to help the Miami Dolphins complete the NFL's only perfect season. The league was more wide open a generation later, when winning quarterback Troy Aikman tossed 23 passes in the 1996 championship game for the Dallas Cowboys. The Baltimore Ravens allowed Trent Dilfer to throw a whopping 25 times when they won the league title in 2001.

Peyton Manning and Drew Brees may surpass those numbers before halftime in Sunday's Super Bowl between the Indianapolis Colts and the New Orleans Saints, because passing wins like never before. Every 12-year-old fan can recite the NFL's common coaching mantra: Run the ball, control the clock and play good defense. But that longtime model for winning championships may be headed the way of leather helmets.

"The game has changed," former Pittsburgh Steelers coach Bill Cowher says. "It's catered to throwing." Manning and Brees do it better than anyone else, which is a big reason why their teams are in the title game.

Brees set an NFL record with his completion percentage of 70.6 this season, and Manning ranked second at 68.8.

Brees led the league with 34 touchdown passes, and Manning tied Brett Favre for second at 33. Brees ranked first in passing



New Orleans Saints' Drew Brees, left, and Indianapolis Colts' Peyton Manning are seen during the NFL football Pro Bowl Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010, in Miami.

efficiency, and Manning was on pace for an NFL-high 4,800 yards before resting for the playoffs late in the regular season.

Gaudy passing statistics haven't historically translated into winning. Instead, 300-yard games were for losers.

But this year, eight of the league's top 10 teams in passing yardage made the playoffs. Teams reaching the playoffs threw more than the league average.

The Colts will play for the title despite ranking a distant 32nd and last in rushing. The Arizona Cardinals also ranked last a year ago when they reached the Super Bowl. No team had previously achieved that dubious feat, according to STATS LLC.

So what happened to the notion of keeping the ball on the ground to win?

"That day has gone," says

NFL draft consultant Gil Brandt, who has worked in the league since the 1960s. "If you get 10 carries as a running back now, that's good. And whatever amount teams passed this year, there will be more passing next year."

There are exceptions to every trend, as the surprising New York Jets reached the AFC Championship game with a rookie quarterback, grinding ground game and stout defense.

"I was pulling for the Jets, because that was old-time football — run the ball and play defense," Cowher says. "It's not out the window, because the Jets still do it," Pro Football Hall of Fame defensive back Rod Woodson says. "Old-school football — it's kind of crazy even to call it that. But today's game is made to throw the ball."

Woodson and others say

Associated Press one factor is rule changes that protect quarterbacks and receivers.

"The quarterbacks can't get hit. The receivers can't get hit. The guy running over the middle can't get hit," Cowher says.

In addition, there's more emphasis on throwing and catching in high school and college, which improves the skill level in the NFL, Brandt says.

"People have become so sophisticated in the passing game," he says. "A long time ago, a completion percentage of 52 or 53 was pretty good. Now you've got one guy at 70.6 and one at 68.8. And there has been a drastic reduction in interceptions. They're throwing the ball more, and yet there are less interceptions."

Super Bowl-winning quarterback Phil Simms finds the numbers

misleading and the trend exaggerated. He says short, safe throws boost passing stats, and teams use such plays to control the ball.

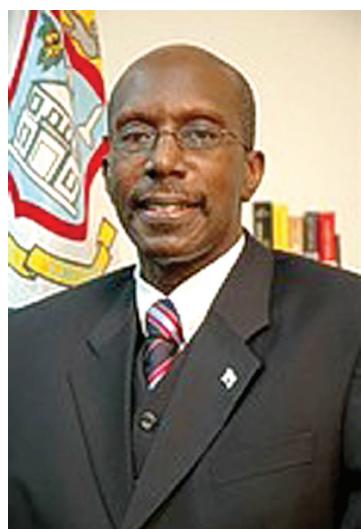
"There are some teams in the NFL that will throw 10 to 15 passes a week of 5 yards or less," says Simms, MVP of the 1987 Super Bowl. "It's really just another way of running the ball, instead of dropping back and throwing it like we did in the old days. I could go out there now and throw left-handed and hit 50 percent, because there are so many easy throws."

Others argue this is an era of uncommon talent at quarterback. Saints coach Sean Payton says passing wins today because of those doing the throwing.

"You're seeing quarterback play that's probably as good as this league has ever had," Payton says. "There are a dozen teams that are getting outstanding play at quarterback, and you would go back a long time before you could say that."

Along with Manning, Brees and Favre, there's Tom Brady, Philip Rivers, Matt Schaub, Aaron Rodgers, Ben Roethlisberger, Eli Manning, Donovan McNabb, Tony Romo and newly retired Kurt Warner. That's a dozen.

Peyton Manning's at the head of the class. He won the NFL MVP award for the fourth time this season, and 78 percent of the Colts' yards came through the air. "Indianapolis is an exception," Cowher says. "I don't think you'll ever find another team that can do what they're doing. I don't think you can use them as a model." □



Richards refuses DP meeting on election

PHILIPSBURG -- Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards has rejected a request from the opposition Democratic Party (DP) for a meeting with him to discuss issues pertaining to the January 22 Parliamentary elections, the role of the Island Council and other matters.

DP leader Island Councilwoman Sarah Wescot-Williams and DP Island Councilman Roy Marlin are taken aback by Richards' response in which he directed the party to take its complaints/issues to the Island Council and/or to the Executive Council.

Wescot-Williams said Richards' response was "very much regretted."

Richards who is chairman of the Island and Executive Councils, as well as of the Main Voting Bureau, said in a letter to Wescot-Williams that after "careful consideration" he could not honour the request for a meeting and the party would be "better served" by contacting the Island Council or the Executive Council for a hearing.

Wescot-Williams told a press conference held in the Parliament Building Tuesday,

Dutch Minister Camiel Eurlings says

Dutch give complete credit to Mike Eman for KLM's return

"Mike, because of you and your team a new and fresh wind now prevails in Aruba."



ORANJESTAD - Prior to KLM Boeing's departure to Aruba on Monday morning, a press conference was held at Schiphol where among others Minister Eurlings from the Netherlands addressed the audience. His speech took away all doubt. In heartfelt words he gave credit to Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman and his cabinet for not only KLM's return to Aruba, but also for the palpable positivism in Aruba and within the Kingdom since the change of government. Eurlings told the audience that he remembers as if it was yesterday when the last KLM plane left for the island of Aruba. "I knew how hard this must have been for Aruba". KLM is important for Transport and Tourism, but also to keep carry KLM passengers to Aruba. But, he said to have felt that there was more than that. For Aruba the departure of KLM was sensed as something symbolic. "The big blue bird doesn't come anymore"; this is what people told Minister Eurlings, and also that they felt it as something painful," so he said. This is the reason why the Schiphol ceremony of that morning was more than just a positive addition to Transport and Tourism. Aruba shall of course receive more tourists.

Continued on Page B5



Digicel makes Bold new move

Digicel has unveiled the newest addition to its wide range of BlackBerry smartphones.

ORANJESTAD - "The BlackBerry Bold 9700 smartphone gives customers the freedom and flexibility to organise their work and social life on one sleek and powerful device," Digicel said in a release yesterday.

The BlackBerry Bold 9700 smartphone is reportedly packed with an extensive array of high-end communications and multimedia features in a compact and highly refined design that should appeal to users for both professional and personal use.

"With its sophisticated design, easy-to-use trackpad and long-lasting battery, the BlackBerry Bold 9700 smartphone is made to fit your life. And, like all BlackBerry smartphones, it helps customers shape their future one day at a

time by combining high-end, high-performance design with high-end, high-performance applications," the telecommunications firm said.

Easy communication

Digicel Group Marketing Director, Kieran Foley, said: "Digicel believes that everyone should have easy access to the Internet, email and instant messaging, and the BlackBerry Bold 9700 smartphone steals the show in terms of offering these innovative services and applications for those who wish to stay at the top of their communications."

The sleek new design of the BlackBerry Bold 9700 has additional features, including a 3.2 MP camera, built-in GPS, and a highly tactile full-QWERTY keyboard for

customers who want to work smarter while on the go.

"The elegant and powerful BlackBerry Bold 9700 smartphone includes a comprehensive suite of features designed to satisfy the most demanding of mobile users - at work and in their personal lives," said Rick Costanzo, managing director, Latin America, Research In Motion. "The new BlackBerry Bold 9700 is a great new addition to the BlackBerry Bold series and we are very excited to be working with Digicel to offer this outstanding smartphone to customers across our markets in the Caribbean and Central America." The BlackBerry Bold 9700 is expected to be available from Digicel across the Caribbean, Central America and the Pacific. □



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ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on



the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

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12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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Half the man he used to be



By: Roland W. Peterson

Dedicated to my retired colleagues

Seated in the big hall
I see them enter all

Familiar faces
That peculiar walk
They come from different places
There is Silent Slim and then Pedro Big Talk

Then the door opens
Slowly, very slowly
he enters
His hands are shaking
A colleague rushes to help

There he stood
with that captivating smile
and that mischievous twinkle in his eyes
But just a shadow of the man he used to be

My thoughts drift back to the day when the door would burst open Standing ten feet tall always with a joke as he would enter

Oh... how well do I remember
Running in dark alleys
Jumping high fences and sliding off slippery roofs
Now he is just the shadow of the man he used to be

He stretches out his hands to me
I give him the big "Abrazo"
I then notice that my old buddy is really less than half the man he used to be.

TEMPO Networks Partners with RBC, RBTT and the International

Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Haiti Earthquake Relief Effort

ORANJESTAD - TEMPO Networks, LLC (TEMPO) has announced that it is partnering with RBC, RBTT and The International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and Red Crescent Societies to galvanize the wider

Caribbean in the relief efforts to assist the Haitian people.

Special accounts have been opened at RBC and RBTT branches throughout the Caribbean for the general public to make donations to the Red Cross Relief Fund. TEMPO, in turn, is developing a promotional

campaign aimed at uniting the region and encouraging donations to the relief effort.

"As the world rightly focuses on this disaster, it also focuses on our region's response. We must, as Caribbean people, be at the forefront of the relief effort and demonstrate to the world that we

are a region united....that we are One Caribbean for Haiti," said Frederick A. Morton, Jr., Founder, Chairman & CEO, TEMPO Networks, LLC. "That is what TEMPO stands for and we are honored to partner with RBC, RBTT and the IFRC in this important endeavour," said Morton.

In a joint statement, Suresh Sookoo, RBTT Financial Group CEO and Ross McDonald, head, RBC Royal Bank of Canada Caribbean said the actions we take in the weeks and months ahead are critical to the re-building of Haiti.

"We are happy to use our regional network to assist in the aftermath of this tragedy. It is imperative that the Caribbean stands side by side with Haiti, leveraging our combined generosity and strength to overcome the challenges ahead," said Mssrs. Sookoo and McDonald.

On January 22, RBC announced that through the RBC Blue Water Project

it would commit CAD\$1 million to support the efforts of ONE DROP and Oxfam. These funds would be used to provide access to water and to rebuild the sanitation infrastructure in Haiti. This follows the bank's initial cash contribution of CAD\$100,000 on January 14, two days after the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Commenting on the partnership, Tanya Wood, Head of Office, IFRC- Caribbean Regional Representation Office, said in every disaster there is hope.

"The Red Cross movement is making a gigantic effort to reach out and deliver help and hope to the many affected people in Haiti: this is only possible through its network of individual, community and corporate volunteers like TEMPO, RBC and RBTT. While we commit to not forget the people of Haiti, we also commit to remember the truly remarkable response from the people of the Caribbean," she said. □

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Haiti: CTO thanks trade and appeals for more help

Chris Gray

The Caribbean Tourism Organisation is renewing appeals to the trade for donations to the Haiti relief effort, and thanked the airlines, hotels and tour operators who have helped so far.

The CTO has listed all its member companies who have helped. They include:

Tour operators:

Hayes & Jarvis is taking donations via a Haiti support page on its website www.hayesandjarvis.com. The Sandals Foundation, a Jamaica-based philanthropic arm of Sandals Resorts International, is offering staff and resort guests the opportunity to donate to its Haiti relief fund, either on-property or online at www.sandalsfoundation.org.

sandalsfoundation.org.

Kuoni Travel has also created a donation on its website through UNICEF. Caribtours is donating £10 per passenger to the Red Cross Haiti Appeal and has added a link on caribtours.co.uk to the DEC/British Red Cross website. Complete Caribbean is also donating £5 to the DEC for every booking to the Caribbean.

Airlines:

British Airways and Virgin Atlantic have committed to flying tonnes of cargo into Haiti including both aid and personnel, enabling essential supplies and aid workers to reach people who need help quickly.

The aid includes hundreds of shelter boxes, contains a

disaster relief tent for up to 10 people, a stove, blankets and other items essential to meet the immediate needs of thousands left homeless on the island.

Destinations:

Red Cross Aruba is in the process of collecting funds from both Aruban citizens and companies, and has been receiving an overwhelming number of calls from those looking to donate.

The British Virgin Island government has donated more than \$80,000 as well as chartering aircraft with medical supplies, whilst Dominica has collaborated with telecommunication company LIME to raise over \$65,000 through radio phone-ins and donations taken from mobile phone top-ups. Montserrat has



In this photo taken Jan. 28, 2010, Haitian barber Raymond Matin, 47, shaves a client with the debris of his shop still scattered around him in downtown Port-au-Prince. Matin, who lost his fourteen-year-old daughter in the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti on Jan. 12, returned to work with the few things he found among the debris of the business he owned for 26 years.

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

been using radio marathons to raise funds totalling over \$50,000 despite the destination's 4,700 population.

The High Commission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas launched a fundraising appeal on the

evening of 22 January at Bahamas House in the UK.

The UK branch of the CTO has set up a dedicated page on its website at www.caribbean.co.uk/haitiappeal.aspx where people can make their own contribution. □



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Dutch give complete credit to Mike Eman for KLM's return



Continued from Page B1

Aruba should once more view the Dutch tourist as a positive addition to the island. Eurlings: "I believe that this moment means more than only this. This is also a symbolic moment. This is the moment when we will confirm our togetherness within the Kingdom."

Here Minister Eurlings fell silent for a moment and addressed Prime Minister Mike Eman personally. "Mike, because of you and your team a new and fresh wind now prevails. Seeing you at work here, hearing you

say that we are partners, that we are equal, that we are friends and that we have to collaborate together within the Kingdom, suggesting how to help one another, this all fell in fertile grounds. I notice this with our government here and everywhere people think positively of your cooperation in the Kingdom.

You have personally come here to lobby for the KLM to return to Aruba. You have done your utmost to full this off. You have talked to Peter Hartman and I have to render unto Ceasar what belongs to Ceasar. I also spoke to

Peter Hartman after you talked to him and both of us were inspired by your input and trust. This played a great and important role at the realization of KLM's return". With these words Minister Eurlings finished his short speech that said everything. The Dutch government is pleased with Cabinet Mike Eman and confirmed this with Eurlings presence at Schiphol, and yet more so by the content of his speech illustrating the great sense of contentment that is prevailing since Mike Eman and his team took office in Aruba.□



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HUMAN HINTS

Your Life Follows Your Mind

Greetings Fellow Human, Humans grow in times of crisis, and we stagnate when we're not challenged. Times of personal crisis are always opportunities to dig deep, to face your challenges and to overcome what seem to be insurmountable problems. When I'm stuck in a situation I don't like, I think of my life as I want it to be. I focus on the sensations I will experience, the feelings and thoughts I will entertain when my life becomes the way I want it to be.

I find it interesting to watch as I work myself out of bad situations with each decision, each action, as my life aligns itself with the focus in my mind.

Your life is a reflection of

your mind. When your mind is focused on your desired future, your daily actions and decisions will automatically bring you closer to your goal. Focusing on your goal will occupy your thoughts with positive images and feelings of where you are going and will take your mental focus off of the immediate problem. Keep your mind focused on the end result, and with daily action and time, your life situation will change to reflect your thoughts about your future self.

Your mind defines the goal, and the details of how it happens must automatically fall into place. The details of the journey, the unfolding of the path, are what make life a mystery. We define the

destination by thinking about our desired future, and the daily path naturally unfolds.

The daily details, the surprises, complications, situations that arise, all require decisions, and each decision directs our lives toward whatever our mind is focused on. As we all know, the path to our future can be riddled with bad news, disappointment and crisis. In the throes of daily trials, think of your life as you want it to be and feel yourself in that future life. As long as you focus on your desired future, your decisions and actions will lead you there. Your life will always reflect what is in your mind.

When confronted with bad news or a tough decision, the first and most important thing to do is to relax. You won't be able to make rational decisions

or see things clearly unless you are relaxed. When we relax, we detach from our emotions and we become more open to intuition and logic. When we're logical, we can analyze the possible outcomes of each decision and choose our path with conscious intent.

When we are shattered by the unexpected, it is important to realize that our lives are transforming to match what is in our mind. The unexpected brings us closer to our goals. Life will almost never bring you down the path you're expecting, but it will always go where your mind and actions lead it.

Our physical lives must reflect what is in our mind. It is a Law of three-dimensional existence. It must be. There is no other way. Never doubt this. Know that your life is going toward what is in your

mind.

As a side note, don't ever take your three-dimensional life for granted, for life as a Human on Earth at this Time is the most coveted situation in the Universe. Throughout the realms of energetic expression, Earth in this moment stands as the focal point of attention. Human Beings are the participants on the stage of the Earth, as the entire Universe watches the unscripted moments unfold. Until Tomorrow...

~Quentin Danziger

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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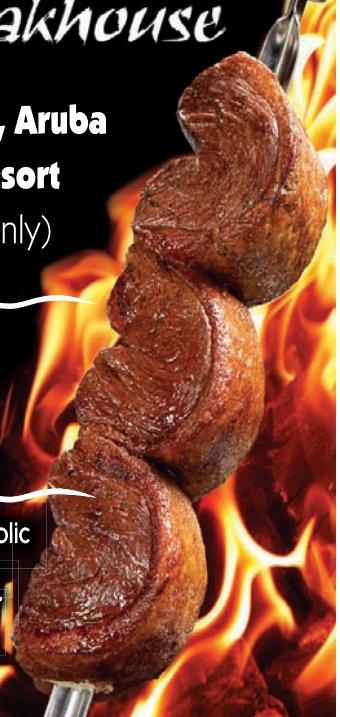
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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more. The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant
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Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

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Celebrations in American Home Assurance Company



ORANJESTAD - American Home Assurance Company recently celebrated 20 years of Ms. Grace Tjin Tham Sjin, its Personal Lines Manager. Grace is a graduate from Saint Leo College, Florida. She worked in Lago Oil and Transport Company and later Esso Petrolera, both Exxon affiliates in Aruba from 1979

to 1989. She worked there in Internal controls, Budgets and Properties, Financial accounting, Cost accounting and Payroll and Payable accountant. Grace joined AIG on 1st December 1989 in its previous company called Senaco N.V. At AIG, she joined us in accounting and then branched out to Personal

Lines as a Supervisor. Her sociable and hardworking qualities earned her the position of a Manager in Personal Lines Division of AIG Aruba some years back where she is in charge of Automobile and Homes insurances and related new initiatives. Grace puts in many demanding hours at work, pays attention to minute details and seeks further challenges in her work and career. She is fond of swimming, bowling and tennis.

The attached photos show Grace receiving her well-earned recognition at the hands



of the managing director of the Company, Mr. Prakash Gupta. Prakash requested Grace to carry on her good work and find more rewards in this Multi-national Company. Our entire staff joins in extending best wishes to Grace. □



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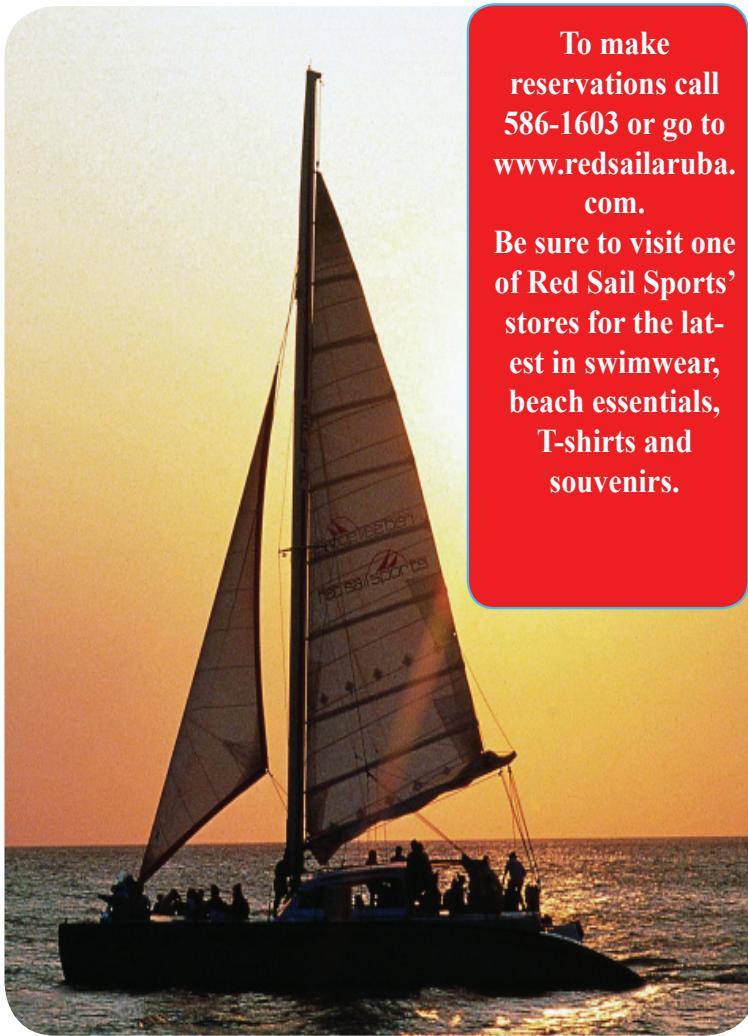
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PALM BEACH - STEINFELD presents WOW factor! at the MAGIC LIVE!® ...theater-of-illusions show , Westin - Aruba opened on December 25 at 9PM. MAGIC Live!® theater-of-illusions show, starring Adam Steinfeld... is an amazing night of Magic, Grand Illusions and Comedy, superb magic at it's

highest level, a lot of fun from start to finish, laugh-out-loud funny, intelligent, sophisticated, unconventional grand illusions, that will keep you asking, 'how the heck did he do that?' Perfect for the holiday season, have you ever dreamed of disappearing and reappearing in an instant? Master illusionist, comedy magician, Adam Steinfeld opened DEC 25, MagicLive show at the WESTIN, Aruba, nightly 9PM, every night, doors open at 8:30PM, and tickets may be purchased at the door, in the intimate

Magic Live! theater-of-illusions theater, every seat is close to the stage. In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees,

then the sections are taken away, one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes!

Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world. I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret.

Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba,



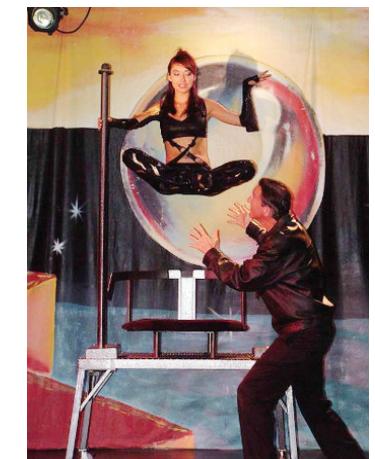
and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a collaborated work with new england mystery writer

Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film.

The intimate Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions showroom is located just off the lobby of the Westin-Aruba in high-rise area, j.e. irausquin boulevard 77. Palm Beach, Aruba. Magic Live!® BOX

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SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show starring ADAM STEINFELD, opens DECEMBER, 25, nightly 9PM at the WESTIN, aruba. MAGIC LIVE! theater-of-illusions show...at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld. □



IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show
Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm
Tickets: at the door
Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults
Group Sales: 561-1090
website: www.MagicLive.com
Blog: www.MagicOnTheBeach.com

Referendum decision sent to Governor for annulment

BONAIRE--Bonaire's Lt. Governor Glenn Thode has used his authority, based on Article 98 of the Islands Regulation, to withhold proclamation of the referendum ordinance passed by the ADB/Nicolaas majority in the Island Council last Friday.

This means that the referendum ordinance can be annulled by Antillean Governor Frits Goedgedrag.

In that case, the Island Council must meet again to deal with the draft ordinance. This has put in doubt whether the island's third population consultation on constitutional affairs can still take place on March 26 as planned.

In his letter to Goedgedrag, Thode argued that the ordinance did not sufficiently take into account the United Nations (UN) report "Recommendations of the Needs Assessment Mission to Bonaire - December 1 to 5, 2009." He referred to advice on the date, the question formulation, the international practice of consensus in such cases and voter restrictions.

Based on the aforementioned, Thode concluded that the referendum as planned "cannot withstand the test of international law." It would be in violation of the general interest of the Dutch Kingdom, and would be at the expense of Bonaire's interest in particular. □



Customs catches packer at airport



AIRPORT--Custom officers at the airport held a Curaçao-born man Tuesday for trying to smuggle two packets of cocaine into St. Maarten.

The suspect was caught with 540 grams of pure cocaine. Officers stopped him as he

arrived on an Insel Air flight, Windward Islands Customs Head Anthony Doran said.

The man had a vacuum-sealed plastic packet of cocaine strapped around one leg. Doran said he had been uncooperative.

He was at least the fourth person flying from Curaçao with packages of cocaine strapped to their legs since December.

Body-packing smugglers, or body packers, prefer to carry the drugs attached either to their legs or along their torsos. □

Govt seeks independent review of waste system

~DP raises outstanding issues~

PHILIPSBURG--The National Alliance (NA)/Heyliger government is seeking to have the firm KEMA conduct an independent cost and quality control/feasibility study of the proposed waste-to-energy plant that is to be built by Windward Roads Infrastructure to tackle the island's growing garbage problem.

Approval for the control was tabled in the Central Committee Monday, because it will cost more than 100,000 euros, which exceeds the amount that the Executive Council is allowed to sign off on without Island Council approval.

DP members question the independent control included the scope of the study and if government will have to renegotiate contracts based on the results.

Island Councilman Roy Marlin (DP) said that such independent controls are common when government is doing a project, with the aim of ensuring the prices quoted are realistic and, in this case, that the capacity of the waste-to-energy plant is within proportion to the needs of the island.

NA faction members wanted further deliberations in the Central Committee on the hiring of the firm.

Also discussed in the Monday's meeting was a proposed change to the Island Ordinance on the Spatial Development transition stipulation, in other words the procedure that is to be followed for applying and granting planning/building permits when no guidelines (temporary or otherwise) exist. □

Suspended cop reportedly surrenders for Lloyd killing

PHILIPSBURG--A policeman who has been suspended by the force reportedly surrendered to police this week for killing model trainer Christian Lloyd more than a week ago.

The Daily Herald understands that G.S., who still has a case pending in court challenging the termination of his services, turned himself over either late Monday or early Tuesday, confessing to causing the head injury that killed 37-year-old Lloyd. Lloyd was found dead in his home in St. Peters on Monday, January 25, and his autopsy was performed Tuesday this week.

Authorities refused to confirm any arrests or confessions. Another officer, also with initials G.S., has been implicated wrongly in the case.

Prosecutor Rienk Mud was unwilling to reveal much about the investigation into Lloyd's death. He said investigators were talking to persons who possibly were involved. "We're questioning several people

in the Lloyd case," Mud said, "I can't comment any further."

Lloyd died from a violent attack, Mud told this newspaper last week. Friends and family believe Lloyd had been dead at least a day before a cousin and his girlfriend found his body lying on a blood-stained bed.

The response has been overwhelming. Dozens of people who knew Lloyd mourned the loss, remembering him as a giving and generous person whose passion was making girls models and pageant queens. Friends celebrated his life with a candlelight memorial on Sunday.

The suspect S. is the first person who has been held for the killing, according to reports. He reportedly was suspended from the force for misconduct.

Police Sergeant G.S., who owns a security firm, was not involved.

According to some media reports, the suspect was sent to Curaçao Tuesday, but that information could not be confirmed.

Police refused to comment.

Democratic Party (DP) leader/Island Councilwoman Sarah Wescot-Williams said at a party press conference Tuesday that DP had no problem with the matter being sent directly to the Island Council as long as all questions posed are answered in timely manner and a copy of the Terms of Reference is received.

Frans confident about GOL agreement after new branding launched in Brazil

~ Maho Group also has strong presence ~

BRAZIL--"The current charter flights from Brazil are booked solid and we are confident about adding more," Commissioner of Tourism Frans Richardson said on Tuesday, speaking from São Paulo, Brazil. He alluded to upcoming meetings with GOL Airline executives in an effort to secure a year-round bi-weekly flight from Brazil. Richardson is in Brazil this week following up on tourism opportunities for St. Maarten. The visit comes in the wake of a visit made to the ABAV Tradeshow in Brazil last year. St. Maarten has been looking at its positioning strategy as it relates to the vital South American market, which has been labelled by market industry experts as the fastest-growing and most vibrant tourism market in the Western hemisphere.

Richardson's week-long itinerary includes the launching of St. Maarten's new branding strategy in Brazil. He said this

had been very impressive for the Brazilians. He will also meet with Brazil's largest tour operator CVC and have a series of other meetings, none more important than his meeting with officials of GOL Airlines on Thursday.

"We recognize how important this market can be for our tourism product. Securing of agreements with South American carriers, using Venezuela as a hub, is one of the areas of interest for St. Maarten, which remains interested in enhancing its efforts to meet objectives as a year-round tourism destination. We are eager, with the branding strategy and other factors, to showcase St. Maarten's potential to South American airlines," Richardson said.

GOL will be seeking assistance from St. Maarten in aggressively marketing the flight to ensure its success. When airlines start servicing an island, Richardson

explained, they tend to want to feel secure that the destination will do its share towards the success of the service.

In that context, he expressed his thanks to the Sonesta Maho Group for being present at the event. "The Maho Group continues to show that it is a true partner with the Island Government. I was told their presence here in Brazil at this event is the first time in 12 years a hotel in a foreign destination has shown the level of interest that Maho does," Richardson said.

As for the launching of St. Maarten's new branding, Richardson said the Brazilians had expressed awe at the visuals of St. Maarten and the potential for business here. He said he personally had given a number of interviews to approximately 60 journalists, who will now feature St. Maarten in their respective publications throughout Brazil.

"There is a reason that so



many destinations are looking towards South America and in particular Brazil. While many countries in the world were hard hit by the recession, Brazil is one of the few that weathered the recession. Since 2003 more than 20 million of the 198 million people in Brazil have risen above poverty and 32 million have entered the middle class," Richardson said.

"They are a vibrant travelling market, which is a direct spin-off of their strong economy. They also view

the Caribbean as a preferred destination, which is evident from the fact that our current charter flights with GOL are booked solid, in some cases overbooked. St. Maarten is taking into consideration that the competition in the region has increased significantly and that St. Maarten should step up its efforts to take advantage of the vibrant Brazilian travel market." Exceptional long-term growth is forecast for Brazil, which is expected to be the fifth largest economy in the world in five to 10 years. □



P H I L I P S B U R G -- Commissioner in charge of Public Works Theo Heyliger has questioned why management of Princess Juliana International Airport can't give back to the community it serves. The Commissioner was responding to the many complaints and calls about a deplorable stretch of road in Simpson Bay with pleas

to repair it post haste.

The road is filled with huge pot holes and water is constantly settling on the road, eroding the foundation. While not shirking his responsibility to solve the problem, the Commissioner said the drainage problem on this road was created when a portion of the lagoon was filled in by PJIA. As a result, the water cannot flow

Heyliger questions why PJIA can't give back to community

into the lagoon and settles on the road. Compounding matters is the fact that this area also happens to be one of the lowest lying areas in Simpson Bay.

Heyliger said he had approached President of PJIAE Eugene Holiday on numerous occasions with the proposal to patch or pave the road, considering government's liquidity situation. The Commissioner added that the repairs to the

road could also be taken up in PJIA's plans to expand the runway.

"He simply refused," Heyliger said. "Why can't the airport, sitting on US \$87 million, give back to a nearby community and have a simple patch of road fixed? I have asked Mr. Holiday to consider doing so with the construction of PJIA's roundabout as well as on other occasions, but he refused. If the

Harbour can recognize its role to its community and fixes potholes and contributes to infrastructure improvements, why can't the airport simply give back? They created the problem," Heyliger said.

He said the little available funds are being earmarked for the major roads. "However, I will continue to work diligently on finding a solution for this road," Heyliger concluded. □



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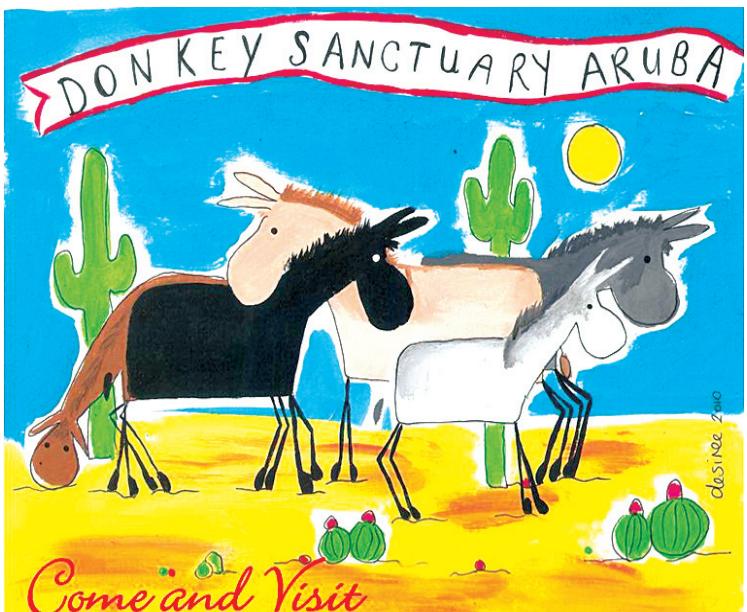
The one design series sailed each year in the lagoon on Sunfast 20s will now include a head to head yacht club challenge. Sailors from the St. Maarten Yacht Club will face off against sailors from Norfolk Broads Yacht Club from Wroxham, Norfolk, England.

A total of 13 teams are expected to compete in the two-day event that starts Saturday at 9:00am. There will also be a team from Antigua led by Tanner Jones who campaigns J30s in many Caribbean regattas.

The teams will rotate between the eight boats to ensure a level playing field. The local teams are headed by Bernard Sillem, Luc Knol, Andrea Scarabelli, Paul Miller and John Gifford.

The British teams may not have sailed the Sunfast before, but they are well experienced in sailing similar day boats on small courses. The visiting team will include well known Dragon Sailor Ken Clabburn.

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Argentina: estalla explosivo en oficina de LAN

BUENOS AIRES (AP) - Por segunda vez en menos de seis meses, un artefacto explosivo de fabricación casera explotó frente a una oficina en Argentina de la compañía aérea chilena LAN, de la cual el presidente electo de Chile Sebastián Piñera es uno de sus principales accionistas.

La detonación se produjo en la madrugada del miércoles en una oficina de la aerolínea en la cordillerana provincia de Neuquén, unos 1.160 kilómetros al suroeste de Buenos Aires, sin que se produjeran víctimas.

La aerolínea informó en un comunicado que "a las 5 horas (08.00 GMT) de la madrugada de hoy (miércoles) se produjo una explosión en la puerta de nuestro local de ventas ubicado en Hipólito Yrigoyen 347. Como consecuencia del hecho se produjeron daños en



Dos policías aparecen en el frente de la oficina de la línea aérea chilena LAN después de un estallido de un explosivo en la ciudad de Neuquén, Argentina, el miércoles 3 de febrero de 2010. Se informó que no hubo víctimas. (AP Photo/Telam, Pepe Delloro)

Cuba asesorará a Venezuela en materia eléctrica

CARACAS (AP) - El anuncio sobre la asesoría en materia eléctrica que dará a Venezuela una comisión cubana, encabezada vicepresidente de los Consejos de Estado, Ramiro Valdés, para atender la crisis de energía que enfrenta el país, generó el miércoles desconcierto y rechazo entre opositores y analistas.

Las autoridades no detallaron el papel que cumplirá la comisión cubana en la crisis que enfrenta el país a consecuencia de la sequía de la represa del Guri, principal fuente de electricidad del país; pero algunos analistas estimaron que ese apoyo externo no será de mayor significación debido a las propias deficiencias que presenta el sistema eléctrico cubano.

El presidente Hugo Chávez sorprendió el martes al país al anunciar, en medio de una cadena de radio y televisión, que una comisión técnica cubana, a la cabeza del comandante revolucionario Valdés, prestaría asesoría a las autoridades locales en materia eléctrica.

Chávez dijo, durante el acto de conmemoración de sus once años de mandato, que el ex gobernante cubano Fidel Castro promovió el envío a Venezuela de la comisión técnica para ayudar a las autoridades locales a enfrentar la

crisis.

"Hemos recibido y está con nosotros al frente de esa comisión técnica el comandante Ramiro Valdés", indicó Chávez.

Valdés también se desempeña como ministro de la Informática y las Comunicaciones en Cuba, y ha cumplido funciones frente al grupo empresarial encargado de la importación de equipos tecnológicos a la isla.

"No deja de ser una afrenta, y una cosa que da tristeza para el gremio de ingenieros de Venezuela... cuando aquí hay un contingente de distinguidísimos ingenieros", afirmó el profesor universitario, Arnoldo José Gabaldón, al cuestionar la presencia de la comisión cubana.

Gabaldón, también ex ministro de obras públicas, dijo al canal de noticias Globovisión que "con traer técnicos cubanos no se va a llegar a ninguna solución", porque eso implicará "ponernos en manos de técnicos de países que están económicamente fracasados".

"No creo que él (Valdés) en la parte tecnológica sea ninguna persona sobresaliente. A mí me parece que a él lo traen aquí, más bien Chávez lo exhibe como una distracción", dijo a la AP el articulista y analista cubano, Fausto Masó. □

agregó.

Según la agencia de noticias estatal Télam, un grupo denominado "Brigada Internacionalista Insurreccionalista Rebeldes de Jacinto Arauz" se adjudicó el ataque.

En una nota hallada en el lugar por los bomberos, el grupo indicó que "decidimos ejecutar un segundo ataque a LAN Chile, uno de los símbolos de la explotación y control social, enmascarado como un servicio en pro del bienestar material" y exigió "la liberación de todos los presos y presas del mundo (sin diferenciación alguna) y al mismo tiempo llamamos a prender fuego a los carceleros traidores del proletariado y defensores del poder".

El anterior ataque ocurrió el 4 de agosto en una oficina de LAN ubicada en pleno centro de Buenos Aires. En esa ocasión, la explosión causó destrozos en vidrios y mamposterías, pero no se hallaron escritos que se refirieran a la autoría del atentado. □

la puerta principal del local. No se registraron heridos".

"La compañía está prestando toda la colaboración con la autoridad para tratar de establecer las causas que generaron el incidente",

Ecuador:

Disminuye aprobación al presidente Correa

QUITO (AP) - La aprobación del gobierno del presidente Rafael Correa se encuentra entre 35% y 40% informaron encuestas divulgadas el miércoles por dos empresas diferentes.

El director de la firma Cedatos-Gallup, Polibio Córdoba, dijo al canal Uno que el estudio realizado por la encuestadora indicó que "la aprobación al gobierno está en 40 puntos". En noviembre registraba 42%.

Afirmó que los ministros del área social registran una calificación positiva de 47%, los del área política 36% y los del área económica 32% constituyéndose estos últimos en "el área que más han pesado negativamente... (porque) ha aumentado el problema de desempleo, la crisis económica familiar".

La encuesta se realizó a principios de enero, en 10 ciudades y con 2.120 entrevistados. Tiene un margen de error de 3,7 puntos porcentuales y un nivel de confianza del 95%.

Córdoba reveló que un 46% de los ecuatorianos están de acuerdo con las cadenas radiales de los sábados de Correa, que tenían un respaldo del 70% hace tres años; un 39% está de acuerdo con las cadenas nacionales que se difunden casi a diario, y un 70% rechaza la forma en cómo se hace la propaganda del gobierno. □

Human Rights Watch cuestiona lucha Colombia contra paramilitares

BOGOTÁ (Reuters) - Colombia no ha hecho suficientes esfuerzos para combatir a los nuevos escuadrones paramilitares e incluso algunas fuerzas de seguridad son tolerantes frente a estos grupos responsables de violaciones a los derechos humanos, denunció el miércoles Human Rights Watch.

En su informe "Herederos de los paramilitares: La nueva cara de la Violencia en Colombia", el grupo advirtió del impacto que la situación podría tener en la intención de Colombia de que el Congreso de Estados Unidos ratifique un Tratado de Libre Comercio firmado entre los dos países. "El Gobierno de Uribe no ha abordado el surgimiento de los grupos sucesores con la seriedad que amerita este problema", dijo el director para las Américas de Human Rights Watch, José Miguel Vivanco.

"El Gobierno ha tomado algunas medidas para enfrentarlos, pero no ha hecho un esfuerzo sostenido y significativo por proteger a los civiles, investigar a las redes

criminales de estos grupos e identificar a sus cómplices y bienes", agregó.

Según el informe, las nuestras estructuras paramilitares son responsables de asesinatos, masacres, desplazamientos forzados, violaciones sexuales, extorsiones y generan una clima de amenaza contra las comunidades bajo su influencia.

Entre el 2003 y el 2006 el Gobierno del presidente Alvaro Uribe mantuvo una negociación de paz con los escuadrones paramilitares de ultraderecha, responsables de miles de asesinatos y atropellos contra civiles en medio de su guerra contra los rebeldes de izquierda, que permitió que más de 30.000 combatientes entregaran las armas y se desmovilizaran.

DURA RESPUESTA DEL GOBIERNO

El Gobierno colombiano rechazó el informe de HRW y aseguró que sí ha respondido a su obligación de combatir las bandas criminales vinculadas con el narcotráfico que intentan ocupar espacios geográficos

que antes controlaron los paramilitares.

El ministro de Defensa Nacional, Gabriel Silva, dijo que el informe desconoce "de manera flagrante los esfuerzos del Gobierno y la Fuerza Pública por cumplir estrictamente la política de derechos humanos y el respeto del Derecho Internacional Humanitario, reconocidos por importantes organismos independientes".

"El Ministerio de Defensa rechaza las afirmaciones del informe que insinúan una supuesta complacencia del Gobierno o sus instituciones con las bandas criminales", agregó un comunicado que anunció la cancelación de una reunión prevista entre Silva y Vivanco.

La mayoría de combatientes paramilitares que se desmovilizaron quedaron en libertad y regresaron a actividades criminales, mientras que los principales comandantes fueron extraditados a Estados Unidos acusados de incumplir los acuerdos y se reincidir en actividades de narcotráfico. □



El director para las Américas de Human Rights Watch, José Miguel Vivanco, durante una conferencia de prensa en Bogotá, feb 3 2010. REUTERS/John Vizcaino

Denuncian a los Kirchner por compra de 2 millones de dólares

BUENOS AIRES (AP) - Legisladores de la oposición denunciaron el miércoles ante un juez federal a la presidenta Cristina Fernández y su esposo y antecesor Néstor Kirchner por el supuesto delito de enriquecimiento ilícito tras la compra de dos millones de dólares en 2008.

Aunque la operación de cambio fue legal, ya que la ley permite una compra máxima de dos millones de dólares al mes, los diputados de la Coalición Cívica cuestionan la "falta de ética" de Kirchner por presuntamente haber usado información privilegiada para realizar la operación al inicio de la crisis financiera internacional, antes de que la cotización de la divisa estadounidense registrara una fuerte alza.

En diálogo con periodistas a la salida de los tribunales tras formalizar la denuncia, la diputada Patricia Bullrich señaló que "en un momento crítico, donde se le aconsejaba a los ciudadanos que no compren dólares, el marido de la presidenta compró dos millones

de dólares". La denuncia recayó en el juzgado del magistrado Claudio Bonadio.

En un correo electrónico enviado el martes al periodista Víctor Hugo Morales --y reproducido por la prensa local-- Kirchner admitió haber realizado la operación pero indicó que no especuló con la tasa de cambio sino que usó esos fondos para adquirir, casi inmediatamente, un hotel en la villa turística patagónica de El Calafate.

"Para formalizar el pago de dicha adquisición (el hotel), cuyo pago se realizó en dólares estadounidenses, efectué durante el mes de octubre compras de dichas divisas con fechas 9, 15 y 23 de octubre hasta completar un total de 1.999.999,80 dólares, dentro del tope permitido (2 millones) para personas físicas en forma mensual", detalló el ex presidente. Añadió que "no existió obviamente posibilidad de beneficio cambiario toda vez que el pago realizado fue en la misma moneda por la cual se efectuaron dichas adquisiciones de divisas". □

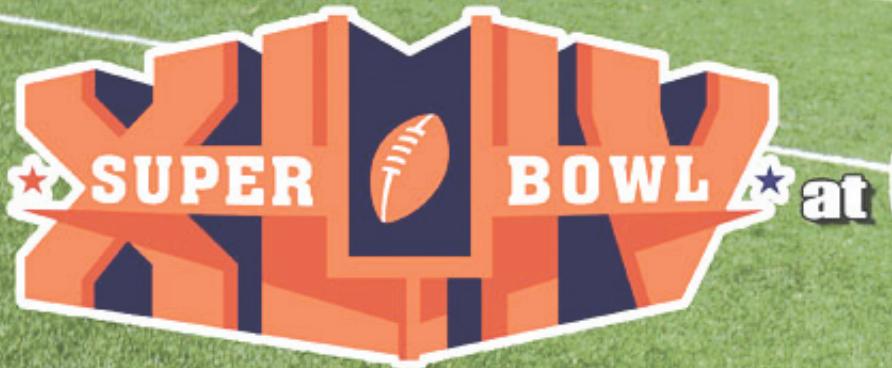
Cardenal llama a la unidad en Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA (AP) - El arzobispo de Tegucigalpa cardenal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez instó el miércoles a los hondureños a reconciliarse tras la crisis política surgida por el derrocamiento del presidente Manuel Zelaya.

"Nos toca a todos buscar la reconciliación y el perdón en la verdad y la justicia", dijo Rodríguez en su homilía al conmemorar los 263 años del hallazgo de la Virgen de Suyapa, patrona católica del país.

"La reconciliación es necesaria porque se ha tratado de presentar la mentira como la verdad, el mal como si fuera bien y la injusticia como si fuera justicia", subrayó. Luego de que Zelaya fue derrocado el 28 de junio de 2009, los hondureños se dividieron en favor y en contra del golpe de estado. □

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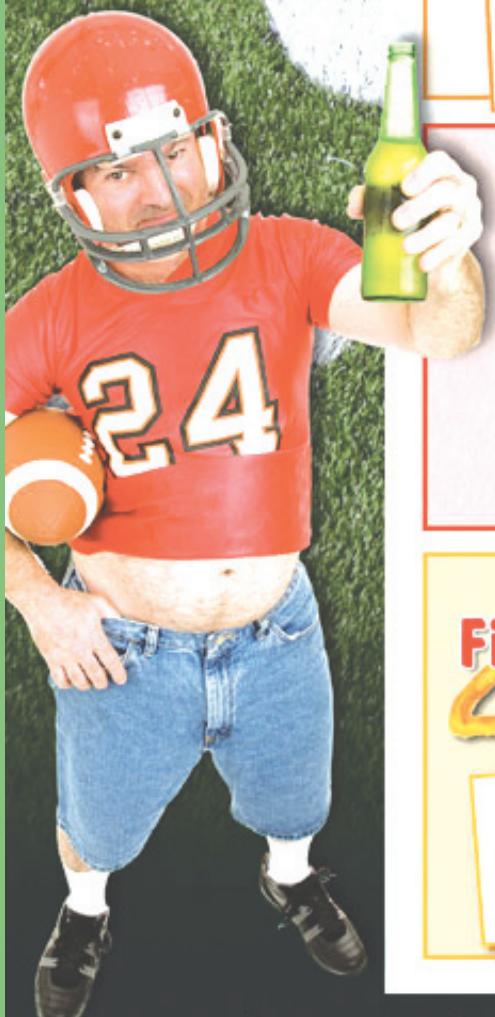
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